

THIS MONTH: 506 Product Support Bulletin Boards OCTOBER 1994

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

Guide to Electronic Bulletin Boards and The Internet

ONE BBSCON IN ATLANTA

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QMODEM, OR TELIX**

To Telnet Across
TCP/IP Networks

**INTERNET - NOW 3.2 MILLION
HOSTS AND GROWING**

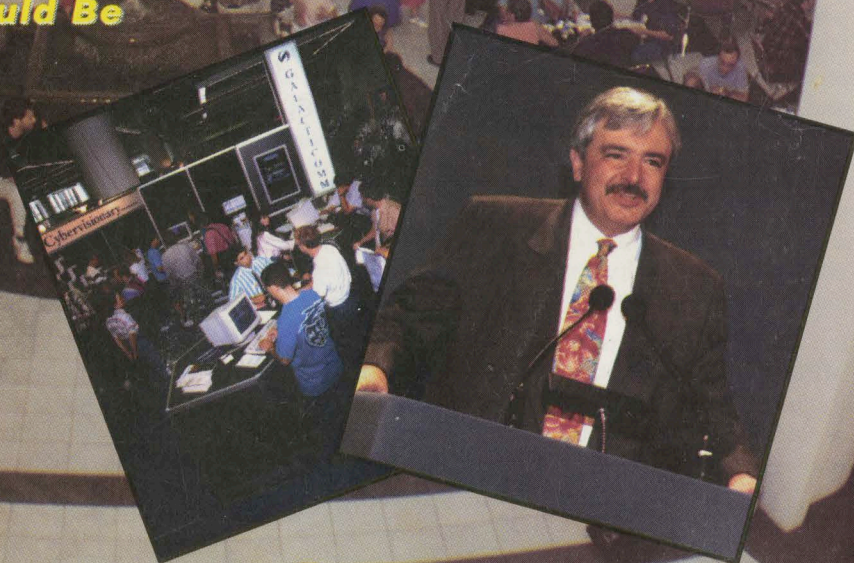
TELECONFUSION

Bottom 5 Bulletin Boards

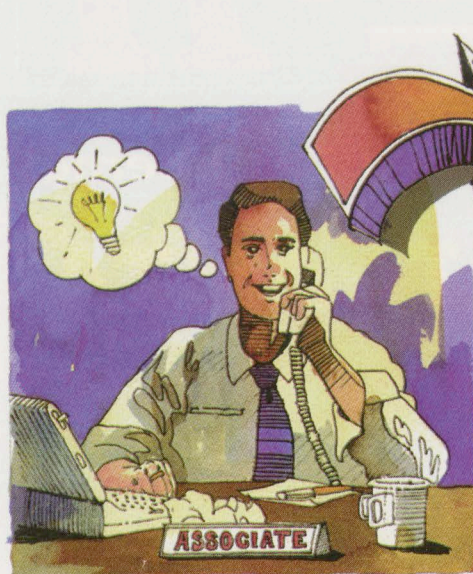
**NANDO-NET
NORTH CAROLINA BBS**

With Internet The Way it Should Be

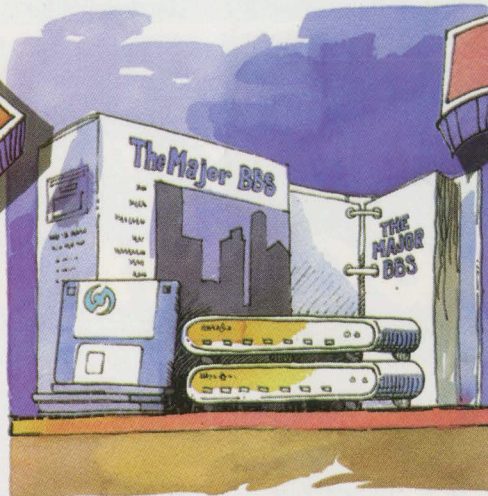
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You are the cybervisionary.



You start with a brilliant idea...



You prototype your concept on a small scale quickly and inexpensively...



You smoothly integrate multi-user applications as you need them...

You have a **vision**. Bring your company online. Tie the workgroups to the customers. Distribute all kinds of information and electronic media. Or maybe launch a new business in cyberspace.

You need more than just a BBS — you want **an open platform** for creating your own online service. A system that is tailored to your mission. And nobody can do it better than you.

Start Right the First Time

The Major BBS® Version 6.2 gives you everything you need to **get started**: e-mail, forums, polls, file libraries, QWK, teleconference, a user registry, and more. Right away, you can plug in one or two modems in a DOS-based 386 or better and go online.

Customize your look and feel with the built-in Menu Tree™ and text block editor. Use Locks and Keys™ security for intuitive access control. Create unlimited user classes for accounting and system management.

Enjoy auto-generated **RIP graphics**, MHS importing/exporting, full multilingual support, time analysis and user reports, CD-ROM utilities, remote Sysop management, “doors” to an auxiliary

machine, an activity audit trail, auto-cleanup and timed events — hundreds of special features designed to make your life as Sysop a **success**.

But that's just the beginning...

Expand Your Horizons

Next, you can integrate a wide array of add-on options. Installation is as easy as “A:INSTALL”. The Major BBS takes full advantage of **DLL technology** to dynamically link these features into your system.

For instance, *Fax/Online* lets you provide outgoing fax-mail and fax database services to your users. *Search and Retrieve* gives you a full document database, with support for graphics files and fax attachments. And **Internet** mail and newsgroups can pipe right in with the *Major Gateway/Internet* package.

Other DLL extensions available from Galacticomm include *Shopping Mall*, *The Major Database*, *Entertainment Collection*, *Dial-Out*, and a special version of the *RIPaint* GUI design tool.

Use the Menu Tree designer to place these new options in the most convenient location. **Full security control** lets you decide which users will have access.

And because these DLLs are written in C and Assembly, they provide far greater **performance and flexibility** than script languages or xBASE derivatives.

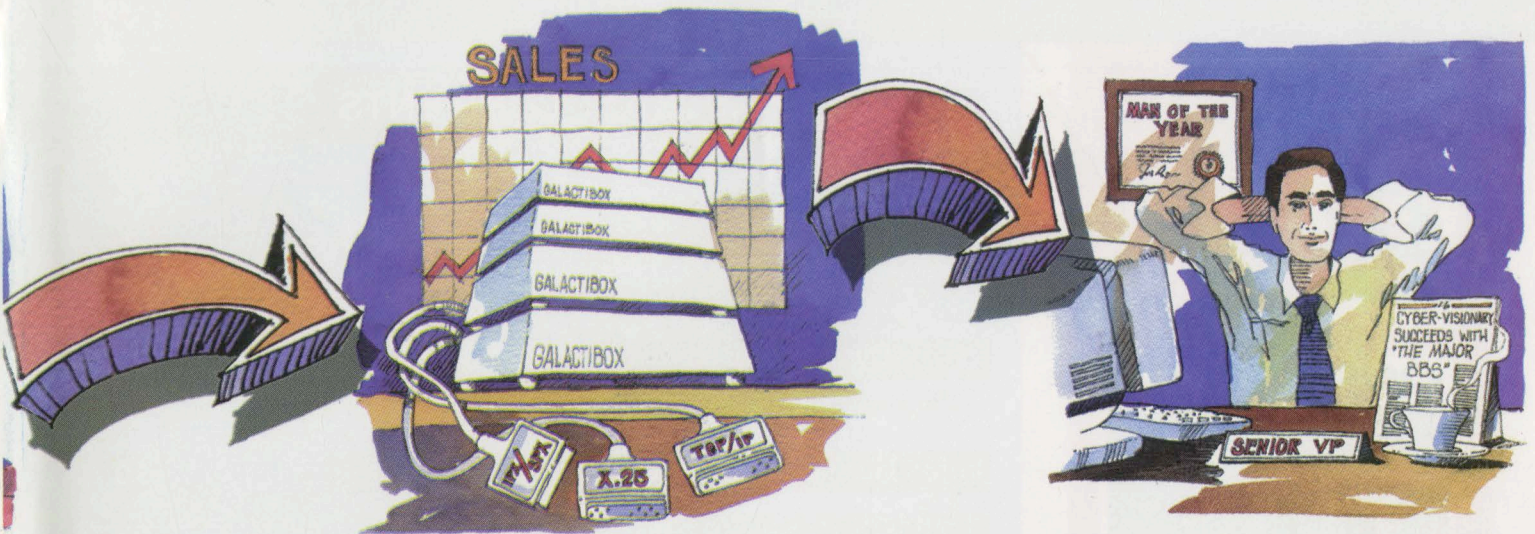
You Need It? You Got It...

Over 150 independent software vendors offer a wealth of products you can cleanly add to your system as DLLs. Plug in software such as:

- multimedia document servers
- MLS photograph databases
- credit card verifiers
- FIDO, QWK, RIME mail support
- online bidding networks
- employment classifieds
- 1-900 payment and tracking
- interactive multiplayer games
- worldwide “chat” networks
- automatic call-back verifiers
- contact management databases
- alternate user languages
- photograph dating services
- online purchasing systems
- satellite news delivery
- remote management tools
- and much, much more...

Each of these products integrates directly into your system, taking full advantage of our **open architecture** and

We just provide the tools.



As you grow, you add more lines, hook up your LAN, connect to the Internet...

And you experience the success of your own, unique online service.

multi-user environment. No other BBS platform gives you this power.

"Doors" even let you interface to client/server databases and other DOS applications, as well as the programs written for multinode BBSes.

With the Freedom to Grow

As your system takes off, you can add more lines without the headaches of multitaskers or stacks of computers. Simply add *User Six-Pack* licenses and hook up more modems.

ONLY THE MAJOR BBS GIVES YOU THE POWER TO SUPPORT OVER 100 SIMULTANEOUS HIGH-SPEED USERS ON ONE PENTIUM-CLASS MACHINE.

In performance tests reported by *Boardwatch Magazine*, The Major BBS handled 104 simultaneous file transfers at 14.4 modem rates (1750 cps), and over 64 at 28.8 modem speeds (3300 cps). In most real world cases, even more simultaneous users are possible.

You can use multiport hardware such as the GalactiBoard and GalactiBox to easily manage huge numbers of internal and external modems. (Galacticomm is the only BBS manufacturer with multi-

user hardware design experience.) The Major BBS also works smoothly with non-intelligent hardware by vendors such as DigiBoard and Boca Research.

And Connectivity For All

Only The Major BBS gives you the ability to support modems, serial connections, IPX/SPX LAN channels, direct X.25 circuits, and TCP/IP sessions — all on one computer. Each channel group can have different menu branches and security controls, at your option.

The *Advanced LAN Option* lets you create a bank of channels that will dynamically accept calls from computers around your office — directly through your Novell LAN.

You can also provide national and international access at low cost via the *X.25 Software Option* and a PC XNet card — you avoid the inefficiencies and expense of a PAD.

And our new *Internet Connectivity Option* lets you integrate a TCP/IP stack directly into your BBS. You don't need a separate machine to provide telnet in, telnet out, FTP client, and FTP server features to your users. Anonymous FTP and Internet surcharges are also supported.

A Bright Future Awaits You

There are few limits to what you can accomplish with The Major BBS. The full C source code to the BBS is available, to give you the ultimate flexibility. Write your own add-on options, or tweak a particular function to your exact needs.

And to address the needs of very high-end applications, Galacticomm has launched a UNIX technology division to provide The Major BBS platform for minicomputers to supercomputers.

Integrated solutions, consulting, and custom development are available from Ambassador dealers worldwide. World-class support is available to you via voice, fax, BBS, CompuServe, and the Internet. A quarterly magazine called *The Major News* provides you tips and tricks, as well as a resource for third-party products and services. And regular software improvements bring you the latest in online technology.

For more information, give us a call at 1-800-328-1128 (or 305-583-5990 outside the U.S. and Canada). And let's turn your visions into reality.

 GALACTICOMM

October 1994

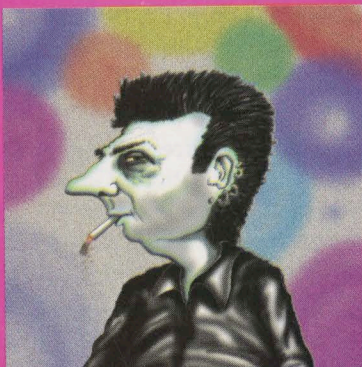
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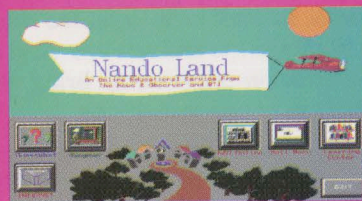
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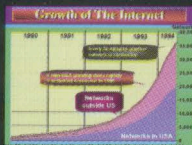
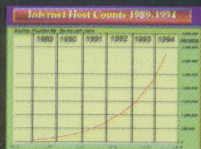


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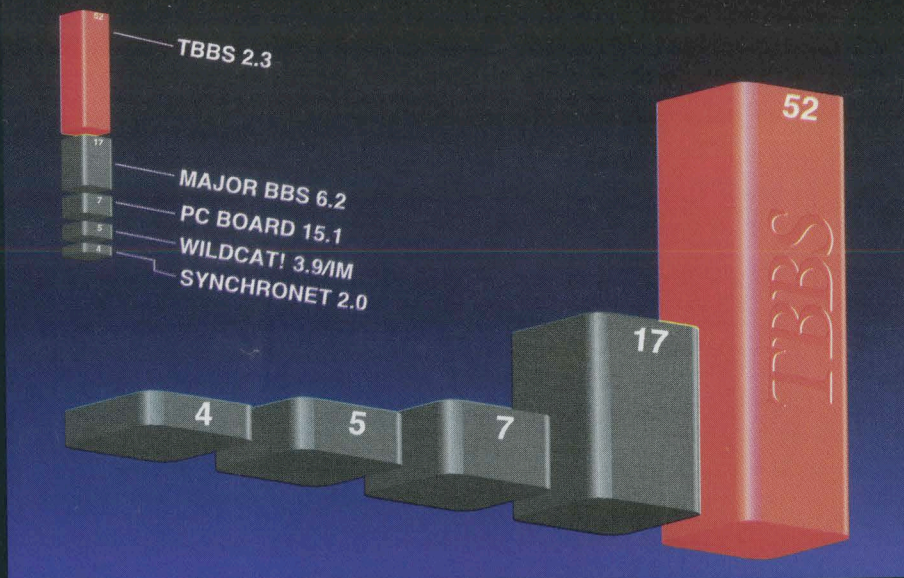
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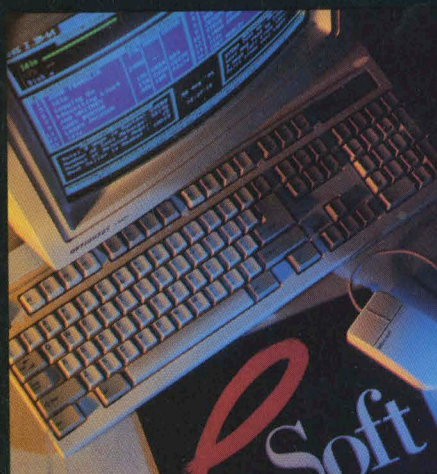
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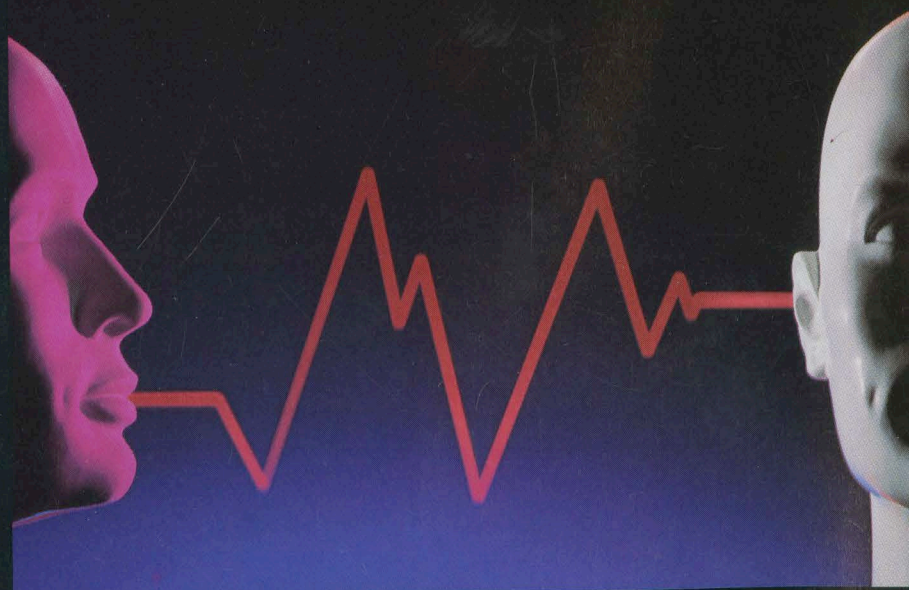
- ▲ In addition to complete documentation, TBBS comes with a 40 minute installation video tape.
- ▶ Number of simultaneous, full-speed ZMODEM downloads at 38.4 kbps on a single P5/60 CPU.



- ▲ The test was conducted in the eSoft Testing Lab. Each PC represents one BBS user.
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- ▶ TBBS' unprecedented flexibility lets your BBS talk to your callers in their language.



Power.

When your BBS succeeds, you'll need the power

to back it up – and you won't want to buy a

room full of computers to get it. For years, TBBS

has stood alone at the top of the power curve in

BBS software. It still does. To prove it, we put all types of BBS software in a room and tested them. As the graph on the left

shows, the closest competitor can't deliver half the speed and power of TBBS 2.3. To complement its speed and power,

TBBS delivers unprecedented flexibility and

smooth expandability – on the minimum

hardware possible. So scaling up as your

system grows won't stress either your

budget or your sanity. And TBBS is backed by eSoft – the company with the most computer communications knowledge

and expertise in the industry. You can buy 64 user TBBS 2.3 for \$1,995 (*32 user for \$1,495, 16 user for \$895, and 4 user*

for \$295). When you're ready for the only BBS

product that can truly deliver reliable online

xBASE databasing, TCP/IP Internet access,

LAN access and

TBBS.

high speed modem support in an integrated system, then you're ready to step up to

TBBS. Call (303) 699-6565 for more information and access to a demonstration system.



eSoft, Incorporated

15200 E. Girard Ave.
Suite 3000
Aurora, CO 80014

EDITOR'S NOTES

MACBBS AND THE TACO BELL CANON IN D

The most mind altering substance in the universe cannot be grown in field or laboratory. It is an idea gleaned from the mind of another human being. If it is a sufficiently powerful mind, a sufficiently powerful idea, and you can rise above your own ego long enough to listen and try to comprehend what they're saying through all the filters and shields through which we throw things at each other, you can enjoy the pleasures of enormous internal wreckage and debris. You do have to be able to allow a certain amount of rearrangement of your mental furniture. But you get to watch the world change before you.

Through a fortuitous series of chance meetings and scheduled liasons leading up to and including the ONE BBSCON in Atlanta, mine did with regards to bulletin boards, online services, and the common backplane that ultimately binds them - the Internet.

THE LIMITS AND THE "INEVITABLE" SHAKEOUT

Two concepts I have always been uncomfortable with, but accepted as givens are under serious attack.

The first had to do with the limits of the caller universe for online services. How many people are there that potentially want and need to call a BBS or online service? This little belief system goes something like this:

1. People who use online services share certain definable characteristics that draw them to use online services.
2. The subset of the population that shares these necessary characteristics is definable, and something seriously less than the total population.
3. The probability is that the main characteristic is they are all a little geeky over computers anyway.
4. And at some near point in time, the current explosive growth will drive us to reach the limits of the universe.

The big question here has been where are we CURRENTLY as opposed to the ceiling, and how quickly are we approaching it.

The second little belief system has to do with the online services themselves.

1. How many of them can there be before there are too many.

2. As a function of the first belief system, as we approach of the limit of the caller universe, how will that figure change.

The heart of this is a view of online services and bulletin boards as an infant industry analogous to the rather tired description of automobile manufacturing.

In the formative stage of the automotive industry, there were hundreds if not thousands of car manufactories. As it matured, the "shakeout" occurred and we were left with three or four big ones. Many industries do follow this development curve, and in fact many do so in "similar" information fields such as radio, television, and newspaper publishing. A few giant conglomerates tend to hold all of it.

The big question here then was when will the shakeout occur, and what will be left in its aftermath.

OK. Now, picture this - what if all of these were the wrong questions?

EVERY MAN A PROGRAMMER

A very late night after dinner discussion with Phil Becker and a gentleman who will, in the interests of intrigue remain nameless, but who's initials are J.P. McMillan, centered around why virtually every aspect of online communications was not getting simpler.

The barriers to new callers in getting online are simply too high. The number of things you have to learn to get online and do productive work seems to be increasing. This generalized bitch session covered why modem initialization strings are getting WORSE and not easier to deal with. Why are we still getting MORE file transfer protocols to choose from. What does the COMM.DRV for Windows have to do with the price of milk in Nairobi, and what ARE the magic words you must have in your WIN.INI to get comm stuff to work at all. Now we are adding WINSOCK.DLL to the equation, TCP/IP, SLIP accounts, Mosaic and World Wide Web, and more.

Between the three of us, we had wholly observed over the past 15 or so years that starting with an admittedly techie set of improbable and poorly designed tools to deal with online communications and a few thousand people at best, this online community has grown to 15 to 17 million people and an enormously larger set of improbable and poorly designed tools to deal with online communications.

This is counterintuitive. As time and technology developed, and as less technoid people came online, things should have

gotten SIMPLER. Instead, they were getting MORE COMPLEX.

Why would this be? Inescapably, it must be because the community, both singularly and together, demanded that it be so.

This is observable in the software development process. Every software developer that faces any success at all receives an incredible number of requests from the software users/purchasers to add just this "one more little function" in the next release. Can you make it work backwards? Can you cause it to do the same thing sideways? Can I pick the colors? Can we do it faster, but retain the ability to do it slower at the same time? The number of "feature requests" can be almost overpowering. Featuritis is endemic in software development.

So why do they want all that? It is an empowerment function. It is so they can do more things. And with each thing they find they CAN do, it brings into view a new horizon of more things they could do if they could just get it a little changed. In fact, it may be that virtually everyone who has a computer is constantly creating new combinations of software to move documents through a series of programs, for example, to do a certain thing. View entire software programs as huge macros. And the feature requests ONLY surface when the users are close enough to see some new combination they want, but can't get there without some changes in a particular software program "component."

Computers are NOT like television. Whoever sits down at the keyboard instantly becomes the director. They get to struggle with and master their own little universe of beige plastic and phosphor. In this sense, every individual is at heart a programmer. They may not aspire to assembly language, but they want to pick up some tools and rearrange the universe before them. Picture them as the "executive director" programmer, and the software development company as a "gruntling" programmer.

The feedback loop on personal computers is entirely closed. Instant gratification. Who wants to use computers out of the total population? Perhaps EVERYONE. A significant number of people haven't discovered it yet, but there is a very real possibility that all humanoids exist in a never ending quest for bigger sticks with which to whack their universe into a bit different order. If so, the "ceiling" on who will ultimately want to go online doesn't exist. The speed with which we approach it becomes a function of the ability to convey the word - but the saturation point approaches population.

BOB METCALFE, SYLVESTER STALONE, AND OF COURSE TACO BELL

Bob Metcalfe is an interesting man. Many years ago he helped develop ALOHA net, a scheme for throwing packets of data up into the air via radio over Hawaii and hoping some of it landed on one of the islands where you could catch handfuls and hopefully make some sense of it. It was a kind of radio data network that used a couple of frequencies to "network" some sites together. He later evolved some of the concepts into ETHERNET, founded 3COMM Corporation, and \$400 million later got out of it. Today he is editor and publisher of Infoworld, which he describes as the only way they would let him have his own column.

One of the ways he is interesting is that he claims to know nothing about bulletin boards and to have never logged onto one. He probably actually did run what was a BBS in the late 1960s about ten years before Ward Christensen, but essentially is unfamiliar with the genre as we know it. An outside pair of eyes, but with an extraordinary perception about technological and industry issues. We invited him to come to ONE BBSCON, see whatever he liked, and on Saturday afternoon, do a little talk on what we looked like to the outside world.

His presentation was indeed entertaining. But more usefully, it WAS a view from the outside, with the expected surprises.

He pointed out that there was not a single BBS software developer among what was termed "the big four" that had more than about 40 employees. And at the same time, any one of them, in summing the callers to all the installed base of bulletin boards running that software, would dwarf Prodigy or CompuServe several times over - a huge but thoroughly diffuse community. His suggestion was for franchising of bulletin boards to centralize or aggregate some of that energy to gain some control or economic growth.

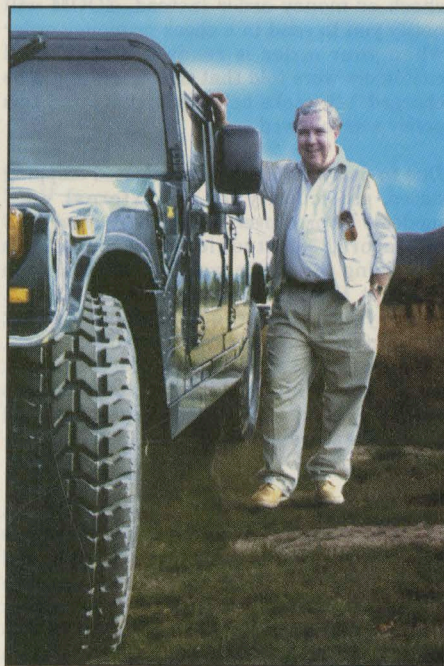
The franchise concept is an interesting idea, just not terribly interesting to me personally at the moment. But the analogy he used was of course the classic in franchising, fast food restaurants - he termed the BBS version "MacBBS."

For some reason, I instantly recalled a recent Sylvester Stallone movie, so bad that the title mercifully escapes me, wherein Sylvester, a cop, and his arch enemy, a criminal, are cryogenically frozen and of course later thawed out in a future devoid of cops and criminals. While they battle, the movie did include one cute bit on Taco Bell. It seems in the future, ALL restaurants are Taco Bells. And the explanation was that Taco Bell emerged from the restaurant shakeout as the only restaurant. Everybody then ate out at Taco Bell. There

was no alternative. You could eat at home, or go eat at Taco Bell.

It was clearly done for comic relief, and the idea of their being a "shakeout" in the restaurant business is ridiculous enough that it worked. There are hundreds of thousands of restaurants all over the country. MacDonalds really IS a HUGE franchise, grossing more than most countries, and there are dozens of VERY big franchises as well - Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bell, Burger King, Pizza Hut, - franchises of every variety.

In the same world, there are some VERY successful restaurants that couldn't possibly BE chains, it wouldn't work. The very best in most cities tend to be posh custom restaurants that are very upscale and very trendy - not at all chains. In precisely this same world, until his recent death, Daddy Bruce ran a barbecue joint in Denver - an almost falling down wooden shed where you could get a barbecue pork sandwich for about a buck - and no one really questioned that it was the best around.



There are hundreds of thousands of restaurants across the U.S. and around the world, HUGE chains that could buy states if they wanted, and tiny barbecue sheds, and everything in between. It is a VERY competitive business. But it remains one of the most diverse businesses there is and one where the entrepreneur can still make a go of it. An extraordinary number of Asian refugees absorbed by the U.S. in the late seventies created a huge number of successful Asian restaurants and actually changed the American diet forever - starting from nothing financially in most cases. And the concept of it boiling down to a single Taco Bell chain is just not feasible.

If anything, people want variety in restaurants.

Could it be that this is the more likely model for online services? Networks, huge commercial online services, single line hobby systems, and every flavor and range in between in perpetuity? No "shakeout" beyond the ordinary and ongoing market directive that the stupid shall die?

(Lacking some governmental intervention of course, where it chooses to cherish and protect stupid.)

SCALABILITY OF INTERNET SERVICES

And finally, the Internet. Nobody knows what it is, but everybody wants to sell it. Regional telephone companies, long distance carriers, cable tv operators, Internet service providers, BBS operators, and probably Walmart before it's over. Never has so little been so misunderstood by so many, and so much money changed hands while they tried to work it all out.

Technically, it is just complex enough that it does take a lot of hand holding to bring it to the masses. And everyone who tries to deal in it winds up with incredible growth curves and ultimately buried systems with insufficient numbers of trained people to even keep the equipment running properly, much less provide the necessary customer support. It's like trying to serve hamburgers every evening at six - state wide, and to a population that at the same time desperately wants hamburgers, and doesn't know how to operate them.

Thus far, all internet service providers do quite well with less than a hundred lines servicing a thousand people or so. Virtually none of them do well at a larger size. And it kind of makes sense. When was the last time you went out for a nice quiet dinner at a 1000 seat restaurant? If you're looking for an opportunity, there are about 10-12 million EXISTING callers waiting to be seated.

The picture that emerges is of man as a tool builder busily creating the largest, most complex and powerful tool ever devised by the mind of man. So vast, no one single mind ever held the top level drawing on the project. And for me, the "lid" just blew off the top of where it can go.

This business, if nothing else, will keep you forever Young...

Jack Rickard
Editor Rotundus
Boardwatch Magazine



IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



Letters to the Editor

Boardwatch Magazine
8500 W Bowles Ave Suite 210
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Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, Boardwatch Magazine, 8500 West Bowles Ave., Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123; by fax to (303)973-3731 or by e-mail to letters@boardwatch.com.

Dear Mr. Rickard:

Your comments about Zoom and V.FC modems in July 1994 Boardwatch were false, unfair, and shocking in their careless disregard for truth.

You state that "Hayes rather blasted the entire modem business when they not only announced, but started shipping, a V.FC modem last fall"... Unfortunately, more than a few (modem companies) opted for a third strategy. ANNOUNCE a V.FC modem and pray that they could play a delaying game until V.34 was real and never have to ship any, or at least not many, that would have to be updated later."

This is false in several ways. First of all, Zoom fully supported V.FC technology as a good way to get advanced modem performance. We began shipping 19.2 and 24 Kbps internal modems in high volume in November 1993, about the same time as Hayes began shipping V.FC, and began shipping 28.8 Kbps internal modems in high volume in January 1994. We expected to begin shipping our external V.FC modems at the same time, but were significantly delayed due to problems getting FCC 15B approval. (The digital signal processor in V.FC modems is very fast, and it's a challenge to control RF emissions. Rockwell changed the DSP at least three times in the first 8 months of production, hoping to reduce RF problems. This is the real story behind Zoom's delays, and probably others'.) We began shipping 19.2, 24, and 28.8 Kbps external V.FC modems in high volume to the BBS community and to others in April 1994, and it took us a while to catch up on backorders. Zoom has shipped over 50,000 V.FC modems to date, including 3500 under our BBS program, and we have a large number of happy customers. We continue to ship V.FC modems in high volume, and remain excited about the high performance per dollar available from V.FC technology.

You state that "V.FC leveled every existing modem offering in its path almost immedi-

ately." I can't imagine what you mean by that. Zoom's V.32bis modems, faxmodems, and voice faxmodems continued to sell in very high volume after V.FC introduction, and they are still very strong. U.S. Robotics and others were late in shipping modems that supported V.FC, but they still generated very high revenues with V.32bis. What are you trying to say?

You state that "Zoom actually took orders AND money for V.FC modems at ONE BBSCON last fall, and I STILL haven't heard of ANYONE actually receiving one of these modems." (The capitalized words are yours.) Do you live in a cave? Have you ever logged onto a Zoom forum or onto Zoom's BBS? We DID ship V.FC modems in high volume starting in November 1993, as discussed above. We did NOT take money at ONE BBSCON. Our policy was stated on our order form, which I quote: "Payment must be received before product is shipped. Payment may be made with check, money order, Mastercard, Visa, or American Express. Credit cards will not be charged until product is sent. If you want to use a check or money order instead, ZOOM will notify you to send in a check or money order when your order is ready." Credit card customers were told that their card would be charged 1-2 weeks before shipping, and this policy was followed.

Due to delays in Zoom's anticipated shipping dates, particularly for the external V.FC modems favored over internals by most BBS operators, electronic mail messages explaining the delays were circulated on the FidoNet HSModem Conference, the ILink BBS/Sysops Conference, various UseNet Newsgroups concerning BBS/Sysops, Compuserve, and the Zoom Tech Support BBS. Once initial shipping dates for the externals were confirmed, electronic mail messages were sent to these same conferences.

You state: "But they haven't been alone. At least half dozen modem companies have announced V.FC modems months ago, and never shipped a one." I won't comment on other companies, but I want to say again: Zoom Supports V.FC and the BBS community, and we continue to ship high volumes as we have since November 1993. We look forward to shipping V.34 standard modems in the fall, and feel there's still a place for V.FC modems, particularly considering Zoom's attractive pricing and upgrade program (\$49 upgrade to V.34 for participants in Zoom's BBS promotion, for upgrades through 1994, Contact Zoom for details.)

Zoom's Sysop program has been an ongoing project with tremendous response. Listings of current BBS's on the program can be found on the Zoom Tech Support BBS (617-423-3733) under "Bulletin 9".

Zoom Telephonics is a strong public company that does its best to provide great products at a great price. We sometimes make mistakes

and sometimes have unanticipated delays, and we apologize for this. But we absolutely did not behave as you have stated, and we would appreciate your running this letter and a public apology in Boardwatch. And in the future if you want to know something about Zoom, please give me a call or send me a message through Internet. I'll be glad to help.

Sincerely,

Frank Manning
President.

* * *

Dear Mr. Manning:

Yeah, and I hate it when that happens too Frank.

I will indeed print your letter in Boardwatch, and in fact, I think you're probably right, a public apology is due. Unfortunately, it isn't as much a public apology TO Zoom Telephonics as much as it is a public apology FOR Zoom Telephonics. We did indeed sleep on this one too long - basically hoping for the best and hoping you would get well. This seems to be the year of calling Jack to complain about Zoom.

Your entire letter consists of a series of blatant statements, followed by the usual weasel worded qualifiers and backpeddling most commonly the purvue of a guy in a plaid coat selling watches out of his trunk. Zoom did not ship any V.FC external modems in high quantity in November, and certainly none to sysops. The external model was promised and since it was the only one assured to be upgradeable to V.34, the only one of significant interest. You did take money at ONE BBSCON in August of 1993, or at least our people thought they gave you money, to order a 24 kbps modem at a very attractive price with delivery promised in October actually. If you didn't actually charge the cards until shipping, then you did at least just barely comply with Federal Trade Commission rules on the topic. The last of nearly a hundred complaints we heard was received during the last week in May. Not only were modems not shipped, but the operators we've heard from report numerous attempts to call Zoom, apparently something of a feat in itself, to receive the basic runaround about when their modems were shipping, with evasions and misdirection being the order of the day. At ONE BBSCON '94, I was STILL hearing about it - and so were your own people.

I happen to know you DID ship a number of modems late in the first quarter, and did so WITHOUT bothering to fill the orders from BBS operators you had received SIX MONTHS earlier in August. It would appear you delayed shipping those until after you shipped to large retail chain customers you considered "more valuable." I can imagine the pressure was considerable as we noted any number of discounters and major stores actively advertising modems they simply

didn't have - because they hadn't recieved them from you.

The concept of a low-dollar V.FC modem, even in the 24 kbps version, was very attractive in August of 1993. It cannot be lost on you that it was considerably less so in April or May of 1994. We had several BBS operators create heirs in less than the 9 months it took you to send them the modem they thought they had purchased in good faith the previous August.

As to my comment regarding V.FC leveling everything in its path, read carefully or take a remedial course. I doubt V.FC had any impact on V.32bis sales whatsoever, and won't substantially for some time. But there were several other schemes vying for the high-speed nod - most notably AT&T's V.32terbo, killed on contact and causing a number of modem companies not as firmly onboard the V.FC ship as Zoom was, quite a bit of reassessment at minimum, embarrassment most likely, and very well may have killed a couple of smaller ones who simply picked wrong - we'll see. AT&T, incidentally, seems to be very early and very strong coming out the gate with a new V.34 chipset, September shipments in quantity from what I understand, and we wish them well - and for early V.34 modems. The \$79 chipset price augurs well for high speed - low cost modems and plenty of them at attractive prices.

And we do indeed both publicly and sincerely apologize to any readers or convention attendees who were misled to any degree large or small, by our complicity in noting your very public announcements of modem availability and the attractive price. Our enthusiasm for new technology does make us an easy target for "optimistic" manufacturers with a good line. In this case we probably crossed the line between early and timely news, and simply touting vaporware. We will be more prudent in the future, certainly with regards to Zoom Telephonics. As to my calling you, I can personally confirm that Zoom Telephonics is simply not available by voice telephone.

So there is your letter, and my public apology to all our readers for your poor behavior. That completed, if your real mission when not trying to piss down MY pant's leg is to provide great communications products at a great price, we're with you buddy. And God speed...

Jack Rickard

♦ ♦ ♦

Jack:

As you surely don't know, it is my custom to read BW whilst ensconced upon "The Throne." My Reader's Digest subscription expired.

This custom is good for the alimentary canal. A few hearty guffaws from the letters section and your outrageous comments about the online industry have a salutary evacuative effect.

But only Charlie Moore's "Teleconfusion" raises tsunamis in the oubliette!
Write this guy into your will, Jack. Some-

body's got to carry on BW when you log out for the last time, and even Dvorak doesn't come as close to your wit as Mr. C. does.

David Hakala

♦ ♦ ♦

David:

Most pleased to learn Mr. Moore's Teleconfusion is raising the tide level in the blue bowl at the Hakala house. He's actually our resident A.G. (Art Guy) and like many things at BW, it started as a joke when some PR geekette at Rockwell decided we were the wrong mag to look at their NetHopper, and what we really should have is a NetHopper hat. I don't review hats, so we gave it to Charlie and he did. One of the real marketing guys at Rockwell called later to say they had over 2700 inquiries about the hat.

We still haven't seen a NetHopper, but Teleconfusion stuck. An Art Guy at heart, the big guy wants to do cartoons in this issue, and what the hell, if we can do recipes, we can give cartoons a shot too.

But despite that, there are some things we just won't bend to. And no matter how many requests we get, I am NOT going to produce a squeezably softer, nor more absorbent Boardwatch Magazine. Use a catalog like everybody else.

Jack Rickard

♦ ♦ ♦

Dear Mr. Rickard:

I'm a bit annoyed at Jim Warren's insipid column. "Access to Government" as a THEME is okay. What we need now is precise information as to where that "Digital Telephony" act *IS* in the Congress.

Is it sponsored? Who sponsored it? What committee in what house?

I have no access to the Internet at prices I'd care to pay. Papermail will do fine to exert political FORCE. Is it really so important that State "X" has a computer interface or should we be concerned that State "X" is mootting legislation to remove digital text from the "Bellopoly"?

What comes first? Tiinkertoy or political maneuvering?

Mr Warren gives me the impression that he abhors the use of POLITICAL FORCE as something unclean. In civics we learn that legislators want us to be happy-don't-worry but adults learn they're wind-sensitive whores bending to perceived FORCE. Think of politics as a monster tree; if you don't push in the direction you want it's going to fall on you; there happen to be many groups pushing this monster tree in various directions, one of which being your happy home.

Mr Warren should get a copy of "The American Rifleman" and pattern his column after their methods. The NRA couldn't care a fig about "Computer access", per se, but rather with LEGISLATION and the application of POLITICAL FORCE. The NRA, unlike Mr

Warren, is exactly where it should be: protecting a minority interest.

Please see what you may do to get Mr Warren away from his "tinkertoy, oh boy!" approach into something more power oriented — something resembling what the NRA does but for computer purposes.

Was it Lenin who said that any revolution that can't defend itself is worthless (or words to that effect)? 'Sounds like something he'd say.

Arne C. Eastman
PO Box 651
Auburn, ME 04212-0651

♦ ♦ ♦

Arne:

I would say Jim Warren is probably personally responsible for more LEGISLATION on this topic than any of the legislators, which makes me a little puzzled by your diatribe. He caused several fax storms in San Jose that directly led to California legislation putting state documents online and is currently engaged in driving for campaign disclosure online and in electronic form to gain visibility into the varied moneyed interests affecting legislation. Your characterization of "tinkertoy, oh boy!" just doesn't match my admittedly unqualified, but nonetheless strongly held view of Jim Warren.

A revolution that can't defend itself is worthless? Words to live by there I guess, but a little beyond my grasp apparently.

With regards to Digital Telephony, this bill is in its third incarnation that I'm aware of. The spooks in Washington DC just won't let it die until they get what they want - the power, ability, and right to listen to what you say when speaking to other Americans. These people BELIEVE they should have this as their own right as bureaucrats. It's a strange world. This proposal has died twice in Congress, and to hear them tell it, we'll all be knifed in our beds if they can't listen to our telephone conversations. Killing it again will simply cause it to come up again next year I do assure you. The only way I can see to drive a silver stake through the heart of this nasty little beast is to amend our Constitution to specifically deal with the privacy rights of our citizens - a daunting thing to attempt. It actually is left a little open right now.

The actual bill now coughs \$500 million of your tax dollars to common carriers (telcos) to install technology and equipment to assure the ability of the dark forces to mind your own business. BBSs and online services don't appear to be affected directly for the moment. I'm sure that will come after the money is doled out.

The current bills are SB 2375 in the Senate and HR4922 in the House. The last I heard it was in the House Judiciary Committee - Jack Brooks of Texas is chairman - (202)225-6565 voice or 1584 fax. One group that has kind of caught my eye with their very informative mailing list is the Voters Telecom Watch, a volunteer organization dedicated to

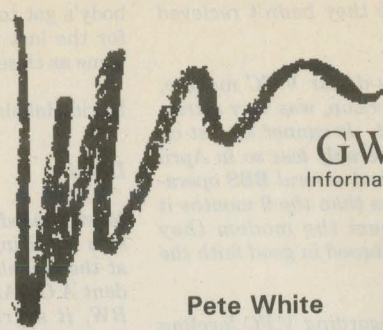
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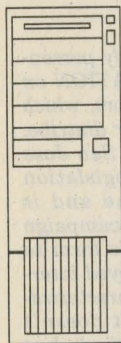
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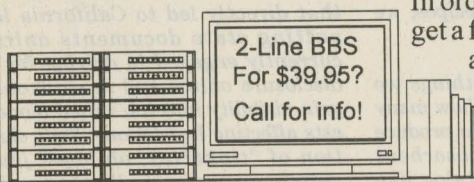
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monitoring federal legislation affecting telecommunications and civil liberties. They keep scorecards, provide legislative contact information, and have a mailing list that's actually pretty good. Contact vtw@vtw.org or join their mailing list with e-mail to vtw-list-request@vtw.org.

Jack Rickard

Hi Jack-

Ok, the trouble with Bob Houston's idea is that it doesn't go far enuf. Why should the user of Netcash have to keep track of his credits manually (by the way, credits ARE what he getting for his 900 call). Tracking this data can easily be done with a bit of software at the user's end. And if you wouldn't want your 'credits' just lying around on yur hard drive, these petty cash files should probably reside on removable media (floppy or "floppy-like" device such as a PCMCIA card), which you could keep with you, hide or whatever. You'd "pocket" it just like you "pocket" your wallet (or purse).

It seems clear that NetBank as described, easily identifies ou cause it must assign a unique "account#" to track your balance, transactions, etal. None of the transaction codes OR your account number need EVER be known to the user. It MIGHT be necessary to add a password (PIN number?) to the system for added security. In effect the removable media (above) would work substantially like a prepaid credit card (ie. debit card).

The rest, while hardly trivial, seems relatively obvious.

My best,

Brooke W. Boering
Vagabondo Enterprises
718 Encino Drive
Aptos, CA 95003

ps. My interest in this stems from the fact that I, too am implementing an "autonomous information processing system" (AIPS?). With all the recent hype about the wide, wide info highway, little attention is being paid to phenomenal growth of these "little info servers". They provide short (usually under 1 minute) pieces of time_ or mission_sensitive data on demand. Examples are credit/debit card verification, stock quotes, racetrack handicap data, etc. They need VERY little bandwidth and provide VERY high value. I can even imagine them running on telegraph, semaphore or smoke signal systems just as effectively (albeit, a bit slower).

Brooke:

Yes, it is a bit obvious. I guess I'm charmed that he has a server up and working and you can use it now. As noted, it may have a few problems. It will undoubtedly serve as a target for those who devise anti-schemes to see if it can be done. Almost ALL proposals we've received since January on this topic either get mired down in wishful thinking that we could do AWAY with money

entirely, get mired down in some little mythical hardware gizmo, or become so convoluted in security that no one would ever WANT a quarter that bad. The NetCash system was on the bare edge of permissible complexity, and probably not very secure. But it is interesting.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

Your June editorial will raise some eyebrows, I am sure, but I am passing it on to folks I think need to open their minds to the possibilities of what the future may hold. I share your concern for the parental gov't's interference in our lives. In a way, Dvorak's column in this issue fits with your editorial. Individual Liberty can only exist in a society that holds individual responsibility to be a virtue. Today those of us who so hold are often treated as rather amusing throwbacks to the stone age. I personally am opposed to any regulation of an adult's personal behavior as long as it does not interfere with or threaten the life, liberty or property of another; that includes getting rid of drug laws and the terrible cost that enforcement has caused, as well as so called porn laws. But at the same time I am opposed to the taxpayer taking care of morons that end up in the gutter because they make stupid choices and make themselves unemployable.

Once upon a time, normal people in this nation were capable of rationally exercising their compassion for the less fortunate. The churches, and most private charities, handled the problem. They recognized the difference between folks who through no fault of their own were unable to function, and the libertine excesses of the spend-thrifts and clowns who created their own misery. Today we have ceded to gov't our personal responsibility for our fellow man and thereby dulled the natural compassion we once had. We have also created a society in which growing numbers consider themselves entitled to all the benefits of labor and industry, without being required to contribute anything but a gaping maw, yelling "Feed Me!"

Ayn Rand predicted the final outcome. It is arriving faster than even she would have believed.

And what does all the above have to do with your editorial comments? In my opinion, it all fits together. Law once was defined as the rational application of justice to a society with a common set of values. Today emotion rules the intellect, therefore law has degenerated to accepting the general consensus of what "feels" right.

The various states have adopted the Federal Rules of Civil procedure as the law in the state. Previous to this error they used the Common Law, inherited from England. Under the old procedure there were two forms of trial courts, courts of law and courts of equity. The Federal Rules of Procedure are based on equity and law has died as a result. A definition of "equity" in Gibbons on Chancery is "Equity is the

measure of the Chancellor's foot." A purely subjective approach.

So today we worship the subjective and have killed the objective; and therein lies the problem of the poor victim that is the subject of your editorial.

Best Regards,

Ray L. Walker
Ray.Walker@Nashville.com

Dear Ray:

I agree on all fronts. Perhaps we are victims of our own successes. Character emerges from the fire of adversity overcome. If too little of our population really ever sees any, it is not so surprising that we devolve to a tribe of morons huddled around the tv. Oh, we all worry enough about where we'll find money to make the next car payment, so it seems problematic enough. We could lose our jobs and have a bit of stress while finding another. But I was staring into the garden hose just yesterday, totally perplexed by the wonder of where all the water came from, and was struck by my own wanton gluttony in spraying it all over THE GROUND so that my grass would have that nice even carpet-like feel - certainly one of the basics of life (there's probably a "right" in here somewhere - the inalienable right to a green lawn, or the right to clear water - something). The water is crystal clear, even quite delicious to drink out here in the mountains and very healthful - and apparently available in unlimited quantity. It would be perfectly acceptable to use this liquid - far more precious than gold - to spray the road dirt off my car. No one would even comment on the grossly absurd waste of it. I can run it out on the ground and no one will care. And we're not talking about muddy water from a communal hole in the street, or brackish water running along the ground. It's piped to the house in crystal clear fashion. Nearly enough a miracle.

We do live in the strangest of times. Most of our problems, note, are us against us. Street crime makes victims at a time when our law enforcement apparatus is focused on delivering severe sentences for crimes that not only lack real victims, but actually take a great deal of technical explanation to describe. As a society we are down to inventing troubles just to give us something to talk about. The Clinton administration is terrified we will be able to TALK online without their approval and their ability to listen in - that we have a legitimate national security and law enforcement RIGHT to listen to private conversations between individuals living on the same continental land mass. Within just a couple of years, I'm going to have to write the story covering how they busted someone for encrypting e-mail in violation of some future law that bans us from doing such a thing because it deprives them of listening in case we ARE doing something illegal. IT'S CRAZY. We are visiting pain upon each other for no reason other than we just have too many people with too little on their minds and badly in search of something to do.

Instead, let's organize a National Water Festival to celebrate the miracle in our garden hose.

Jack Rickard

• • •

Re. Harley Hahn and Wendy Murdock's col. on E-Text. I agree and disagree. I agree that I know no one that would want to read a book on one of today's desktop computers. (for all the reasons given.) However I have read a number of E-Text books (full length novels, science fiction etc.) on my HP100LX palmtop. Using a program called "Vertical Reader" so the text is oriented properly if you hold the palmtop so the screen is sideways, it makes for a very readable display. The palmtop is about the size of a paperback book when opened, and it's very easy to go from one page of text to the next. With the LCD display there is no 'flicker', and you can even read under the covers if you have a flashlight. I would think the Newton, Zoomer etc would all have these qualities.

Why this way and not just buy a book?

Toys are toys, and we like to play with them.

As a business traveler I already have my sched., notes etc. on my palmtop. It makes more sense for me to also load a few books into it to read in the airports while my planes delayed, than to buy a few books and have to cart them around and take up space.

So while I think that the reasons for reading E-Text as books are not overwhelming, I think there is a lot more potential for them than given in the column. And in the future, a "newton" or something like it could be the book of choice!

Thanks

Dan Kinsella
DKINSELLA@DELPHI.COM

• • •

Dan:

I like to read. I have since the nuns showed me how. I read before bed. I read in the throne room. I read in the dark. I've read cereal boxes, telephone books, and the little slips that come inside a new package of underwear declaring that she did in fact say they said Haines when she said they said Haines. I've read some GREAT things in my life, and some really, really bad pieces of drivel. I read a lot off the page, and quite a bit off the computer screen.

I agree the screen can be made better through both technical design and aesthetic design. And I think it will improve over time, though perhaps more slowly than we would all like. But at this point, you'll not find me at odds with Mr. Hahn. In fact, I've been trying to locate an article I did five years ago with essentially the same message ever since receiving Harley's article. Reading can of course be accomplished via computer. But it is a different process. I'm not sure if it is entirely even the physical medium. If you could duplicate the page on a screen in its entirety, would it THEN be the same or different still?

For me it is mentally quite different I think even in how I process text from the screen in my mind. Physically, there just isn't that much text there. On a page, you can "glance" back 500 words in 1/10th of a second, glance over at the picture, catch the caption, go back to reading the line of text, and so on with such ease that you are not conscious of it being part of the reading process.

There is really no reason why the 8.5 X 11 aspect ratio of the printed page has over time become so common. But the computer screen has never even sought this as a goal. Technically it is trivial, and there have even been a few full page monitors produced - to no great hurrah. So I'm unclear whether we are even aiming in any serious way at making them the same.

Computers can search text, sort text, index text, examine text, archive text, and otherwise allow us to manipulate text with enormous power. But it is not lost on me that I'm selling a printed magazine specifically to people who daily dial services that hold more text online at any moment than any one of the callers could possibly read in a lifetime.

If you've read full length novels on a palmtop computer, I would guess you're in a tiny minority. Can it be done? Undoubtedly. Should it or will it be commonly done? Probably not in my lifetime.

The other element of all this I would point out is that there has not been a year since 1979 when someone did not make a plausible case describing how computers would eliminate the printed word. And there has not been a year in that time that the number of words printed on paper decreased. Strangely, the largest contribution computers have made in our society is to increase the volume and speed with which we can print words on paper. And so we do.

There are some fascinating developments going on right now with Ziff's Interchange, NCSA Mosaic pages, newspapers finally going online, etc. I guess I think it is all a little exciting and I do love eye candy. My call right now? Reference works will move almost entirely to computers. "Reading" for pleasure such as you and I now discuss it just won't - not in our lifetimes. I'm with Harley on this one.

Jack Rickard

• • •

Jack,

You say that the net is "awash" with all sorts of misuse, and therefore this justifies all new misuses - or at least that's the way you come across in your defense of C&S (the immigration lawyers.)

First of all, the net isn't "awash" with misuse - it is mainly used for productive, interesting, and fun things. But it is a very large net, with many millions of users (perhaps 30 million world-wide) and it wouldn't be surprising for there to be many dozens of misuses. Note that most of these misuses get dealt with quickly because of reaction of other network users and because

it is in the best interest of network operators to keep the net operating well.

So then we have these jack-ass attorneys who seem to feel that anything, no matter how destructive and/or annoying, is ok as long as there isn't an actual law against it. (What they did is exactly equivalent to finding a small town that hasn't passed an ordinance against dumping toxic waste near its water supply, and quickly dumping toxic waste there - and then using the letter of the law to defend the action.)

They posted to thousands of newsgroups an ad which was unrelated to the topic of the group. This wastes the time of the reader, and often costs the reader money - for many people pay for network time used and for disk storage.

Perhaps having many people (measured in the many tens of thousands) injured just slightly by C&S makes you admire C&S. If you really feel this way, I can only hope that you get into legal dealings with legal firms which are as detestable as C&S and that you are treated no better than the network users have been treated by C&S.

Best wishes,

henry schaffer
HES@UNITY.NCSU.EDU

• • •

Dear Henry:

First, I did not at any time claim or imply that unvalued use of the network justified its continuance. I offered the commentary that the particular incident was widely held out as a unique or unusual event, by those who sounded terribly shocked and outraged, when in fact it was not only not unusual, but very common. Second, what net are YOU on? Clearly I need a connection. In weighing pound for pound, ton by ton, and phosphor bushel by phosphor bushel that which I observe on USENET, you can't possibly be referring to that one.

Thirdly, there are not 30 million readers of USENET. These wide ranging estimates vis a vis the Internet have entirely gotten out of hand. If you are going to throw figures of 30 million around, why not just use 700 million or 2 billion? They would be as accurate.

But I agree entirely with your main point that lack of law or regulation does not imply that all behavior is acceptable. I don't defend C&S in any way. In fact, if we could all learn a little common consideration, the apparently ever pressing need to pass yet another law might ease. We have too many already.

That said, I still have the same question. This was NOT a unique incident, so why is everyone up in arms? Or conversely, why are you all not outraged on the DAILY flow of such messages from other parties?

Jack Rickard

• • •

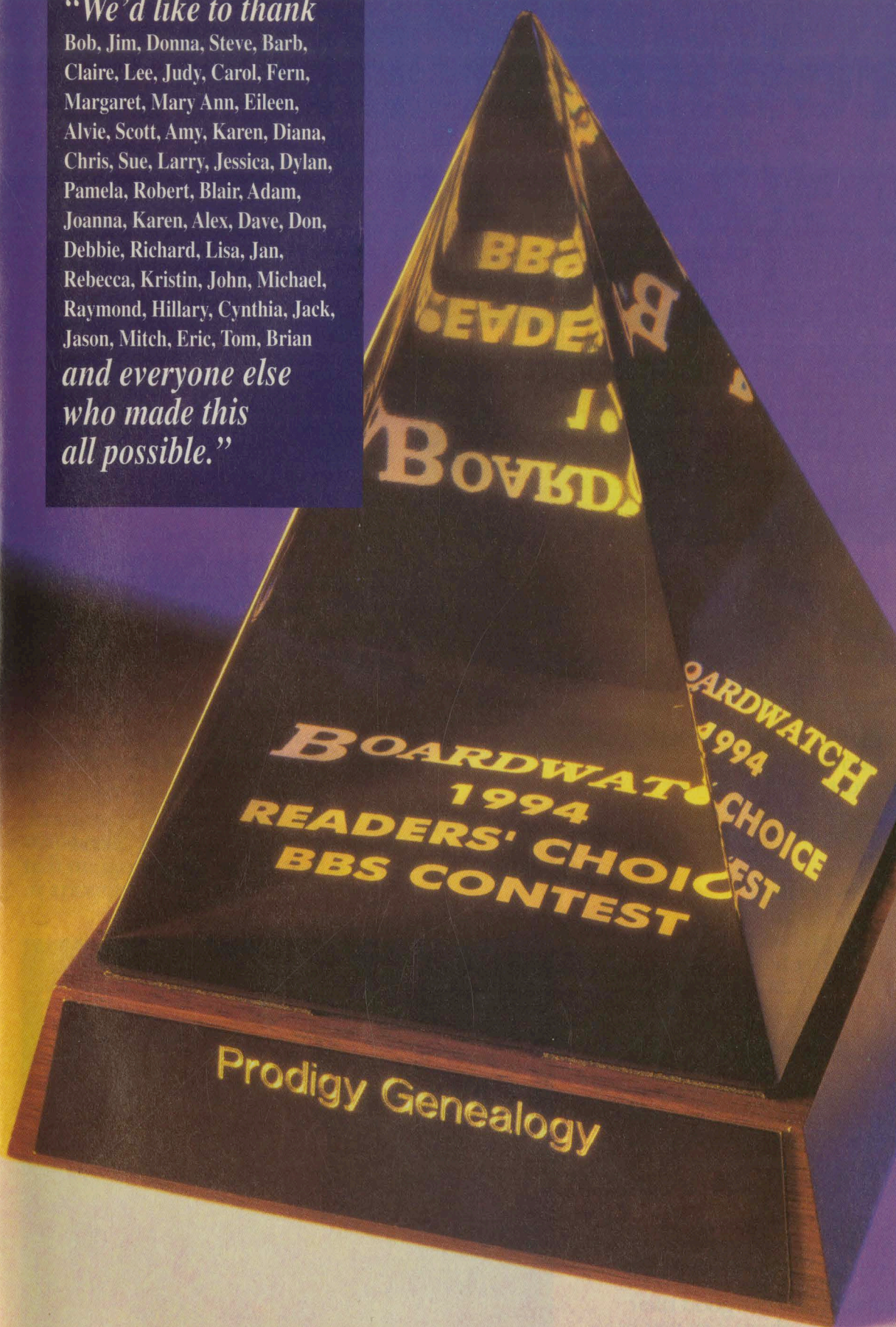
Dear Jack

Congratulations for having the courage to speak out in your last editorial, and finally

"We'd like to thank

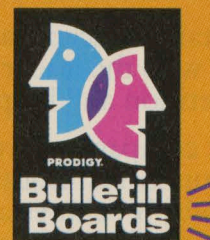
Bob, Jim, Donna, Steve, Barb,
Claire, Lee, Judy, Carol, Fern,
Margaret, Mary Ann, Eileen,
Alvie, Scott, Amy, Karen, Diana,
Chris, Sue, Larry, Jessica, Dylan,
Pamela, Robert, Blair, Adam,
Joanna, Karen, Alex, Dave, Don,
Debbie, Richard, Lisa, Jan,
Rebecca, Kristin, John, Michael,
Raymond, Hillary, Cynthia, Jack,
Jason, Mitch, Eric, Tom, Brian

*and everyone else
who made this
all possible."*



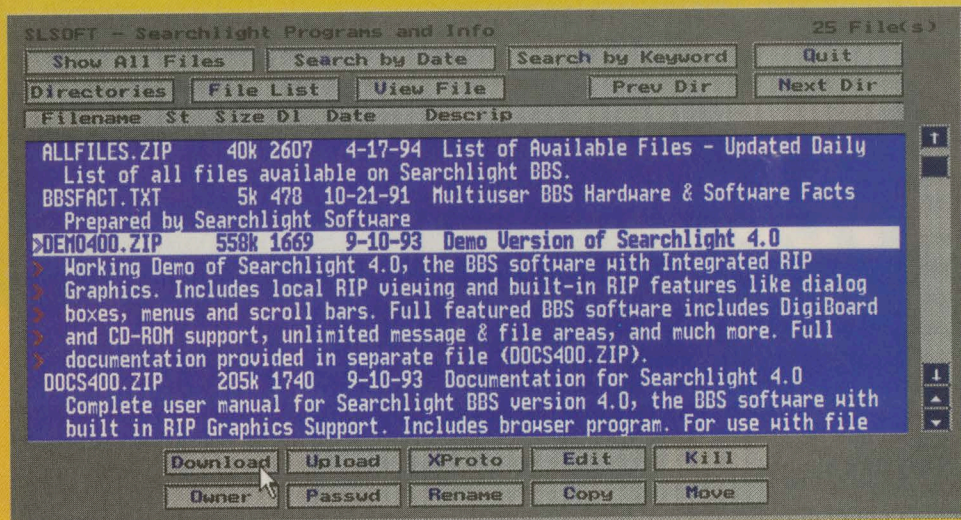
Prodigy would like to thank all the readers who voted our Genealogy Bulletin Board one of Boardwatch Magazine's Top Ten BBS's in their Boardwatch 100. It is your recognition of the quality of these on-line communications that keeps us striving to be the best.

If you haven't yet seen why PRODIGY's Bulletin Boards stand out from the pack, call us at 1-800-PRODIGY ext. 143. We'll give you 10 free hours on our Bulletin Boards just for joining. And we'll look forward to receiving your vote in next year's competition.



PRODIGY is a registered
service mark and trademark
of Prodigy Services Company

Searchlight BBS...



Our RIP file manager lets you scroll anywhere in a directory...you can tag items and run commands by clicking with the mouse

When the first Bulletin Board Systems went online in 1978, graphical user interfaces didn't exist. Callers had to stare at text menus and memorize commands; there was no alternative.

Today, everyone prefers the dazzling screens that Windows and OS/2 provide...but most BBS programs still display the same drab, confusing text menus that the first programs did.

The information superhighway is full of exciting stops; no one has to call your BBS anymore. If they see cryptic text menus, they won't call back. You have to give callers the dazzling graphics and intuitive menus they prefer. That's why you need *Searchlight 4.0*.

RIP: We Show—Not Tell

The Remote Imaging Protocol by TeleGrafix gives callers the graphics and mouse support they expect; that's why callers prefer RIP. That's why BBS developers are scrambling to add RIP—and telling everyone that their RIP is "as good as Searchlight."

Well, talk is cheap—and seeing is believing. It's easy to see who the leader in RIP support is...look at our competition and keep asking: *"Where's the RIP?"*

Other companies love to tell you how good their RIP support is. But they hate to show it to you in their ads, brochures and test drives. They won't show you their RIP support because they know they can't match ours. Because nobody can.

"Searchlight is doing a marvelous job incorporating RIP into their BBS"

Boardwatch Magazine
July, 1994

The working scroll bars in *Searchlight 4.0* let you scroll through a message, file or directory list with your mouse. You can select messages, tag files, set options and run commands just by clicking with the mouse

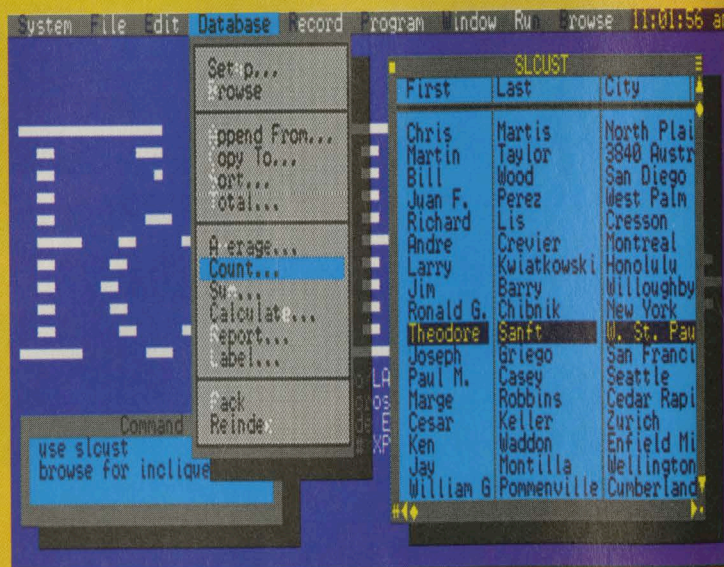
Searchlight 4.0 creates RIP menus on the fly, so you can build custom menus in seconds. And *Searchlight 4.0* is the only BBS program that displays RIP locally—so you see the same screens your callers do.

We do RIP better than anyone because we've been doing it longer than everyone. *Searchlight 3.0* was the world's first RIP-compatible

BBS. *Searchlight 3.5* was the first BBS that generated RIP graphics—the first to offer scroll bars, pick lists and "on the fly" menus.

Searchlight 4.0 is the *only* BBS that displays local RIP. It's the *only* way to give callers a true GUI with no proprietary terminal.

And 90 days after TeleGrafix releases the RIP 2.0 protocol, we'll introduce *Searchlight 4.5*—the first BBS program that supports it.



Our direct video support lets you run any text-based DOS program as a door

you won't believe your GUIs!

Improvise Without Scripts

If you want custom menus, some companies make you buy their script language and write routines in it. That's not customizing—it's programming.

We think our engineers—not our sysops—should write the code. Our menu editor lets you put any command (we have over 100) on any menu. You can nest menus 40 levels deep and add doors to any menu—even build executable menus that run lists of commands.

Then use our RIP styles editor to add buttons and wallpaper—we'll generate your menus on the fly. Or use your favorite RIP painting program to draw RIP screens...and let us put your menus on it.

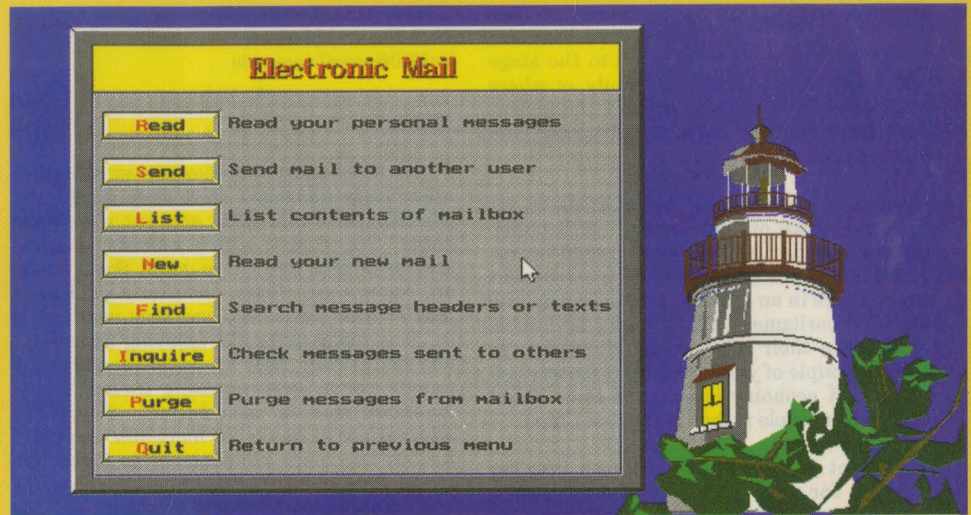
If you want a custom BBS, we help you build it quickly and easily. When you buy *Searchlight 4.0*, you can leave the compiling to us.

Open Any Door

A hobby BBS might want to add external programs ("doors") so users can play online games. A business might need to let their users drop to DOS and run a custom application.

Some major BBS programs can't drop to DOS at all. Others make you fiddle around with a DOS shell utility.

Searchlight 4.0's built-in DOS shell lets you run any text-based program (like FoxPro, dBase, Paradox or applications created with Clipper and Clarion)



The automatic menu generation in Searchlight 4.0 lets you turn any RIP screen into a custom menu

online. Just set a switch and forget it; we make running spreadsheets online as easy as 1-2-3.

No Fine Print

Callers love what *Searchlight 4.0* can do. Sysops like what Searchlight Software won't do.

We don't make "Digiboard" or "network" versions—support for intelligent multiport cards and LAN software is *free*. We support Internet addresses; just add your favorite mail utility. Tech support is *always* free; if you want more lines, we credit *all* your purchase price toward your upgrade.

And we don't want to sell you a terminal, so we include RIPterm (TeleGrafix's free, RIP-compatible terminal) with each copy, so you can help your callers "get RIPPed."

So call for your fully functional demo of *Searchlight 4.0* now...and see why people say that we're not like all the other GUIs.

"Searchlight remains one of the easiest BBS packages to set up and use; it is also one of the least expensive"

**PC Magazine
June 14, 1994**

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Single line | \$99 |
| 3 lines | \$179 |
| 10 lines | \$299 |
| Unlimited | \$399 |

Windows, OS/2, RIP, Paradox, FoxPro, dBase, Clipper, Clarion and Digiboard are trademarks of their respective companies.


SEARCHLIGHT

800-988-LITE

Support: 216-631-9290

BBS: 216-631-9285

Fax: 216-631-9289

6516 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

put the sorry state of America into proper perspective.

It's a pity that there aren't more journalists like you to really speak the truth. Most of them cower behind the skirts of political correctness, the religious fanatics and other movements that have been responsible for so much of the moral degradation of your once great country.

I hope it doesn't have to come to the stage where you have to arm your family, or where a majority of Americans support the violent overthrow of your corrupt politicians and public bureaucrats.

Even in Hong Kong, we are starting to see the emergence of "democracy" with politicians of all parties willing to make outrageous promises of increasing government expenditure in an effort to buy their way into the local parliament. (With a very noticeable increase in their salaries and allowances in the last couple of years.) Any real destruction of the HK economy is going to come about from these people rather than from China.

I suspect you will find a much greater support for your views, especially among your ordinary US readers than you thought. (you know the type that used to want to be like John Wayne, had their own lemonade stand when they were a kid, pledged allegiance to the flag with a respect for the constitution and weren't afraid of taking a risk, because they knew they always had a chance at the big time.)

The BBS area is always going to be one area that can expose the corrupt areas of government and help to protect your constitution and to protect your way of life.

Simon Patkin

simon@hkatl.com

Simon:

Yes, I know the type. I still admire those guys. They don't get out much these days apparently.

Thanks for writing and good luck in Hong Kong. I understand you all will be going through some changes there.

Jack Rickard

Jack:

I am in the process of doing a business plan that would involve setting up a BBS and other things and just got off the phone with the bank that I have used for the past 20+ years (yeah, I AM old!!) Just like you have said in your BBSing for Profit seminars, they were more than amenable to setting me up. No hassles at all. They even waived the 6-month period (trial period, I guess?) since I had been such a good customer [that in itself demonstrates the limits of computers... if THEY don't know how many times I've overdrawn, who does:]].

I applaud your move to putting a mailing cover on the magazine. Mine have started

coming to my door in increasingly worsening condition. Makes one think that the USPO has been reading the letters to the editor section. :)

BTW, I *enjoy* the letters to the editor section. Thanks....

LTC Michael W. Cannon
USMA
West Point, NY
km5380@usma7.usma.edu

Michael:

I have had hundreds of sysops over the years absolutely adamant that they could not possibly get a merchant account with their bank. I've worked with a number of them, and never seen one fail to get it. Some banks are easier than others, but it is a significant part of what banks do, and they want to do it. It is really quite like applying for a loan, and realistically, they are indeed loaning you money - or at least exposing themselves to financial risk on your behalf. There are alternatives to banks for merchant accounts, just as there are alternatives to banks for loans. But in both cases it is more expensive and troublesome to deal with them than the bank.

As to the post office, I really don't know what's going on down there. I could tell you stories. We are having increasing difficulties both with damage and delivery. We are trying to "harden" Boardwatch against the postal attack with various glues and wrappers. We intend to win, but it's a task.

Jack Rickard

Hello,

I just wanted to bring to your attention a BBS software package that seems to get very little recognition by BoardWatch, or any other BBS oriented media for that matter. This very impressive package is called Virtual BBS (VBBS) by Roland De Graaf. VBBS is a ShareWare Package that offers many of the same features that the "big boys" do, but at a much smaller price. VBBS's Powerful Network Engine is able to handle 999 different networks with ease; no need for a front door. Also, It supports a powerful script language that allows you to customize the package to look and feel anyway you want. I have been in the BBS business for a long time, and have used most of the major packages. I have to say that I am stuck on VBBS. Although this sounds like an advertisement for VBBS, it is not. I just get a little irritated as I pour through the pages of magazines and read reviews and raves about all those other packages when VBBS is as good and even BETTER than many of them. All I am saying is; Give VBBS its time in the spot light.

Also, I would like to say that Your magazine is a fantastic piece of work. Keep it up!!

God Speed

Randy Miller, SysOp
Corporate Ladder VBBS [1:2215/420]

216-677-1040
rmiller@corp.alhfn.org

Randy:

We'll try to find out more about it. We're in a bit of a situation of "So many bulletin boards - So little time." But I've heard VBBS has gained quite a following and now has an OS/2 version. We'll try to take a peek in a future issue.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

Quite a few people and myself, in London, have been enjoying your magazine and editorials for well over a year now.<glorious display of flattery<g>>

I have been running a BBS for support/info for my store for about the same amount of time, and have found quite a bit of information gleaned from your magazine to be useful. We are one store in a chain of twenty <currently trying to get the other nineteen to catch up>.

I have a couple questions.

1. Where can I get ahold of 'Creating Successful Bulletin Board Systems' by Alan D. Bryant. Prentice Hall in Canada is one of our vendors, but they do not seem to have the capability to get it for me. We sell to quite a few bbs', most of which have expressed an interest in it.

2. Given the variety of cases going on about porn and related issues, we have seen our own little black horse here in London, Ontario. Over the space of about 10 years, there has been a large porn ring going on in our own little backyard. Basically, 20-30 male adults have been purchasing a variety of services from several hundred youths<aged 9-14>. Several hundred pornographic tapes and other materials were seized. Included in this was the system of a well known bbser. His system was called Grey Friars Bobby. Apparently this individual had been purchasing certain services from boys aged 9-12 since 1982, after inviting them over to play video games on his computer. Interestingly enough, this individual was not a person who you would think to be involved with such matter<being a long time member or the London and Area Sysops Association with high standing>, in that he does not fit the stereotype of a greasy pedophile. To say that we were completely floored by the 30 odd charges levied against him would be an understatement.

I guess the thing that this issue raises is: what is he guilty of? Now I know many people would scream bloody murder over this, and some of it is called for. Apparently, all the people involved were aware of their actions and all were involved during an extended period of time, producing pornos, with absolutely no duress. In the age when 4 year olds are murdering babies in England and when an 8 year child can quote you your arrest rights, what age should be considered

a cut-off point between 'obsessive pedophile' and 'prostitute purchaser'?

I in no way approve of these happenings, the same way I do not approve of the recent arrests of people producing pornographic material. What is considered lands for 'consenting adults', and what is considered lands for getting yourself sent to Sing-Sing for an extended vacation? Do you arrest the people who run the cameras and sign up the actors as well as the people involved with purchasing the movies<estimated to be in the 1000's of tapes sold>. On any given day, you can talk to one person who would like to string him and his friends up by their 'shorts' in front of the court house, and then talk to another who thinks that the consent was there for everything to be okay. Unfortunately, the sysop of Grey Friars Bobby has essentially taken a topic which would have passed by us like a freight train and thrown it, speeding at 65 miles an hour, into our laps. I do not like being under the scrutiny of anyone, but I feel that there shall soon be a couple extra callers, extraordinarily interested in my cd's and message bases. Carry porn cd's online...are you kidding? That, given the current gravity of the situation would be insane. Likewise, I think you'd be hard pressed to find any on many bbs' in London.

As of Tuesday July 5, 1994, the witchhunt for bad boy bbs' has not begun. We involved with this aspect of cyberspace on London are braced for fire and brimstone that comes with ANY blackspot in computers. The police chief of London is begging for a couple million in funds for a task force the size of Elliot Ness' G-force at their peak and it appears he's going to get it from the Ontario government. I know of a couple of sysops who are sheepishly scanning their message bases almost daily to ensure that no 'undesirable' or 'risky' information could be passing through their modems. It's probable that they will root out other scourages here like pirate boards, etc, but what will the cost to others who are interested in the clean enjoyment from cyber-communications be?

<phew, what a ton of typing! Sorry for the length>

I personally think that London has the highest per capita bbs population in the entire free world, so it should make for some interesting news. I'll keep you posted.

Chris McNutt
A Plus Software BBS
Internet: CHRIS.MCNUTT@APLUS.DT-CAN.COM
P.S. hope to be able to attend ONE BBSCON and meet you.

Chris:

Alan Bryant's book, *Creating Successful Bulletin Boards*, is available from Addison Wesley. They are already discussing a THIRD printing so it seems to be doing pretty well.

Yes the issues are pretty thorny. I'm always in a difficult position here. I don't personally read anything racier than *Smithsonian Magazine* with regards to photographic

images. I am neither experienced nor knowledgeable on sexual matters, and so it is only fitting that I should constantly be asked to comment on them? I cannot imagine anyone wanting sex with children, and no, I cannot fathom a situation where they can be "consenting." They can't even find their shoes. The concept is repugnant beyond horizon.

And therein lies the problem. The accusation itself can destroy a person's life, and rather demonstrably can be made absent any evidence of wrongdoing. I rather believe such accusations are indeed commonly made without foundation, and find that an equally heinous act. The simple and immediate advice I would offer is don't traffic in erotica online. It seems to me rather pointless even if it were without consequence.

But it is quite possible for this situation to reach near hysteria, and from what you describe it may have in Ontario already. The unfortunate outcome is at best a dampening or chilling effect on online communications. And as likely the more serious matter of regulation of online services, which could be mild or could involve review panels for every bit and pixel and e-mail message in CyberSpace. Unfortunately, the outcome is not decided by the majority of us, but rather by the worst of us. While I would personally prefer bulletin boards to focus on pictures of ducks, cars, and airplanes, I would not advocate that be the law of the land.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

Along with probably 99 and 44/100th's of the online community my hat is off to you. Your exceptional magazine is pure reading enjoyment and the ONLY one (out of 12 or so that I get regularly) that takes me DAYS to read. It seems every letter, article, ad and review has something valuable to tell me. I've recently started reading it with a yellow highlighter in hand so I can mark and easily follow up on things of particular interest.

With that said, I wanted to mention a new Prodigy program that might be the kind of thing Georg Kochi was looking for when he wrote asking about a newspaper-type output from the online news services in the July, 1994 Letters section of Boardwatch..

Prodigy's candidate ("The Journalist") is a program that resides on your hard disk (available for downloading for a one-time fee of \$49.95, I believe) and works in conjunction with Prodigy for Windows.

While it doesn't let you "view" a newspaper-type format interactively while online, it DOES allow you to design your own, personalized newspaper by specifying which/what/where of the many Prodigy features you'd like to see on a regular basis, where in the "newspaper" you'd like to see them, how you'd like them laid out (type-faces, headlines, positioning, borders, fonts are all user-definable) and can include photos, weather maps, charts and graphs, stock quotes, investment company news and

recurring columns, among many, many others.

Once you've defined just what it is you want to see and how you want to see it, the program will either manually (or with a "scheduler" set for a specific time(s)) dial up Prodigy, run around and get all the stuff you want, log off, "fill" your newspaper with the appropriate information, and print a beautiful 8.5 x 11" custom report. In addition, you have the ability to view the newspaper on your screen prior to or instead of printing it out each time.

The customization of this pretty nifty tool is virtually unlimited; you can make it look like a newspaper, a newsletter, an interoffice memo, or any other custom format you feel would be useful to you or your organization.

Don't know if this is the kind of thing Georg was looking for, but thought you might be interested in knowing about it anyway.

I hadn't yet heard of Ziffnet's pending Interchange service, so once again thanks for the tip!

Regards,
John Cinelli
chcc89a@prodigy.com

John:

It sounds fascinating. The concept of a "custom" newspaper for every reader is not new, but continues to have some merit. A big part of dealing with information in the future will have more to do with what is screened out, than what is included. Filters against the hurricane of information. Prodigy is making some significant strides in multimedia news - sound clips now and photos with news stories, and I think they'll work into video clips accompanying text stories when the bandwidth is sufficient. In fact, this is the first real application of multimedia that has made the buzzword real for me personally. If you combine text stories with photos with videos, you almost develop a catalog of tv that becomes searchable and browseable and when you find a story that really interests you, then you can watch the "video." It holds a lot of possibilities and they've taken pride in their news arm all along.

I personally think the way to success for Prodigy is on their BBS discussion groups, and some of their new offline mail programs. But there is a subset of the online community that has to have their daily news fix.

Jack Rickard

Jack,

In your reply to a fellow about the health-care "crisis" I finally saw someone speak to what I've said about Insurance.

You said "What's an Insurance Company? And why do you allow them?"

I want to take it one step further. If everyone in the US stopped paying them and went to the doctor and paid them their fee outright,

what would happen to the price of health care?

Susan Easter
susan.easter@psi-online.com

Susan:

I was first keyed to this in 1983 with the birth of my first offspring - a girl child. In comparing notes with my father, we found that the out of pocket cost of the delivery was approximately the same for me as it was for her. Of course, I was only paying 20% of the cost and the insurance company was paying the other 80%, whereas he was on the hook for the whole amount. In those days, you went to the doctor, he sent you a bill, you paid it - sometimes as best you could over a few months, but that was the drill. The conversation really revolved around inflation, but it started a rather haunting thought process. What if 80% of the costs of medical care were in the insurance itself.

So for a number of years I've puzzled over just what it might cost for medical care if there were no insurance companies. I've never figured it out empirically, but I've run into some enraging concepts along the way. Not just over medical insurance, but over insurance as a whole. Without relating a hundred or so incidents, let me relate just a couple. I went to Hugh M. Woods, a hardware store, to buy a 20 amp electrical receptacle for a battery backup system. By code, 20 amp circuits are supposed to have a little bit different socket than 15 amp circuits. However widely ignored this may be, the electrical connection on the battery backup unit had a 20 amp plug, and while I did have 20 amp service in the wall, I needed a 20 amp receptacle. They had two. One was orange, and one was white, both made by the same company and otherwise appeared to be of identical construction, weight, and quality. Oh, there was one other difference. The white one was \$2.39 and the orange one was \$16.80. So I asked one of the clerks what the difference was. He told me the orange one was "hospital rated." I asked him what the difference was between hospital rated ones and non-hospital rated was and he noted that they were of the same quality and construction, and he wasn't sure just what the difference was - probably better quality control or inspection procedures or whatever.

I bought the white one. But curiosity is a terrible thing. So I called the company that manufactured the receptacles. I probably talked to ten people there before encountering a humanoid but he told a pretty interesting tale. Apparently, if you manufacture anything to sell to the medical industry, the exposure to lawsuit is tremendous. So the product liability insurance is just incredibly high. Since they don't specialize in medical equipment, they produce the "hospital rated" model and apply the entire cost of the increased product liability insurance to those units, rather than spreading them across their entire product line. This keeps them competitive on the white models, while still allowing them to sell to the medical field and be covered by insurance. The actual difference between the two units is the addition of orange die to color the hospital rated model.

Now let's look at the doctor's liability insurance. Here in Colorado, as of two years ago, the average liability insurance fee for Doctors specializing in Obstetrics/Gynecology was \$108,000 per year. That's \$9000 monthly or about \$300 per day. I don't know how many babies an OB/GYN averages per day, but I would think 3 or 4 would be a hard day, and with office visits and other duties they probably average less than 2 per day across the year - even busy ones. So nearly \$150 of the Doctor's fee, not a large part of the total delivery bill, has to be just for liability insurance.

I was also employed by a large Aerospace company which had excellent health and dental benefits. The week before I left them to start doing Boardwatch full time, one of my kids went to the dentist. The bill was \$125 and the dentist submitted a claim for the amount. While I no longer worked there, the office visit occurred while I did, and I'm sure we could have worked it out eventually, but I was really wanting to be through with them. So I asked my wife to go down to the dentist's office and just write them a check. She did. She explained to them that we were no longer covered and she was here to pay the bill herself. The receptionist, in a very routine and offhand manner told her that if it wasn't covered by insurance, and they didn't have to fool with the claim any further, they would be more than happy to accept \$45 for the visit instead of the originally billed \$125. That dentist is apparently convinced that about 63% of their costs is in dealing with insurance companies.

So I developed an interest in insurance companies themselves. What are they functionally? I found out that the largest venture capital investors in the world are ALL insurance companies. They are the largest institutional investors in the New York Stock Exchange, in mutual funds, in commodities markets, and even in currency trading. Anywhere money is invested, the big boy on the block always turns out to be an insurance company. They are more involved in the movement of capital than the banking system itself. They employ hundreds of thousands of people and are, after the government, the largest purchaser of computers and computer services in the world.

When you add up a 500-600% markup for every physical item that exists within the walls of a hospital or doctor's office - right down to the electrical sockets in the walls, SOLELY to cover product liability insurance, the liability insurance costs of those within the profession, and the apparently huge costs of dealing with the insurance bureaucracy by every administrative office throughout the medical care system, I think the question of what percentage of our medical costs are CAUSED by insurance companies becomes a legitimate one. The picture emerges of a monster that exists to feed itself. They "insure" us from the costs of medical care, while at the same time feeding the costs. And the only conclusion I can come to is that it is entirely possible that the real costs of medical care ARE in fact the 20% most of us actually pay, and the entire remaining 80%

that they "cover" goes out one door and in the other.

It is entirely possible that if we made it illegal to insure medical expenses, instituted tort reform to eliminate medical liability lawsuits, and publicly funded schools for medical doctors and nurses to increase the numbers in that profession, medical costs would be barely higher than the deductible + 20% co-payment most of us have to pay already.

Oh, it's just a theory...

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

I was recently asked by someone what a BBS was "worth". In particular my BBS. Well, I had never given it much thought, and found myself at a loss to accurately answer the question.

I don't charge for BBS access. I have put a lot of time into creating the board over the past few years. It is still developing and I consider it to be in its primal stage.

But after all those hours, software registrations, phone bills, breakdowns, etc., It's got to be worth something(!), right?

Has the BBS community come up with an accounting formula for estimating the monetary value of a BBS? The way things are going, systems will probably be bought and sold in the future, what criteria would be used to establish the dollar value of a BBS?

Interested in your opinion and look forward to *every* issue of BoardWatch!

Regards,

Jesus Dacal
Jesus.Dacal@Sunshine.Com

Dear Jesus:

In order to accurately establish a value, there has to be an active market of things bought and sold. Very few bulletin boards or online services have been bought, sold or traded, so what you're wanting largely doesn't exist. It does seem to be picking up here recently. In looking at them as more general businesses, the "margin" in bulletin boards is also quite variable. How do you like 3.5 times gross annual revenues? Or seven times earnings?

Jack

Dear Jack,

First of all let me say that I love your magazine and it has proved to be a great resource in many of our business decisions. Now I'll cut to the chase...

I'm writing this letter as a warning to anyone thinking of running a UNIX BBS. I would like to tell you about my experience with a company known as Coconut Inc., the authors of Coconet. In September of 1992, we purchased a copy of Coconet with the

implication that we would be getting a free upgrade to version 4.0 by the end of the month. Come the end of September, version 4.0 was not ready. We had promised our users a new version with all sorts of new features, just as we had been promised. Well, time went on and we kept being told version 4.0 would be ready in a couple weeks. We received a post card in the mail stating that Coconet 4.0, along with the Cocotalk 2.0 Library would be released on August 16, 1993. We patiently awaited that day and when it arrived, still no Coconet 4.0.

Our BBS had become a joke and all of our users thought we were liars. When the August 16th date fell through we were told that we would be receiving Coconet 4.0 in a couple of weeks. We waited a few more months and finally decided that—after many conversations with the president of Coconet who seemed to show little to no remorse about these shameful business actions—it was time to switch software. We had lost tons of business not to mention the money spent on Coconet which we were unable to get refunded. To my knowledge, Coconet v4.0 has still not been released and Coconet v3.3 remains a bug filled inflexible piece of software. If you are considering buying Coconet, I would recommend that you look elsewhere.

Now we are proud owners of the Major BBS and have experienced excellence in technical support. When we were having difficulties getting our PageSat satellite to work with Major, Galacticomm assigned a developer to remedy our problem. He did an excellent job and helped us get our new BBS up and running in a matter of weeks. That's the kind of reliability that makes us glad we spent the money to switch.

Dan Ginsburg
System Operator
Integrity Online
dang@integtel.com

Dan:

It's a developing industry, and an interesting one. We first wrote about Coconet and their graphical interface in 1988. It was pretty hot. Unfortunately, it didn't advance much beyond that point, and the world did. There is an odd mixture of personality, risk, common sense, technical merit, and luck that go into running a kitchen-table startup up into a successful company. Some make it. Most don't.

As a service operator, I know it's no fun for you to pick wrong and wear the stripes. But you're part of the industry as well. The winnowing and sifting of the good from the bad comes from use. I know it would be nice if I would just publish a list of the winners and losers and save you all a lot of trouble. The problem is, I've seen losers become winners, winners go bad, kids with compilers come in suddenly and change it all, and a continuous flow of innovation and adaptation that leaves that simple option a little lame. No doubt there will be those who produce little charts purporting to do that for you. I don't know anyone in the industry better qualified, experienced, and capable of doing

so than myself. I'll tell you now it won't happen, because it would be misleading, inaccurate, and dishonest. And that's if I do it. So I'll pass.

Good luck with your new platform.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

I enjoy your magazine and have been a subscriber for several months, and naturally have some ideas for improvement. As an engineer, I read a wide variety of technical articles and magazines. I find Boardwatch sometimes difficult to read because of the jargon that has grown up around bulletin boards, the Internet and networking in general. Without knowing for sure, I would say that your mag is intended primarily for the system operator and for experts in the network field. If anyone else wants to read it, that's fine too. Well, lots of us who don't fit into the expert category want to know what's happening in this field too, and turn to your magazine for this knowledge. After all, were just "morons" when it comes to this stuff, we just want to learn!

I have some concrete suggestions that would help me as I struggle through the new language of this complex but fascinating subject. I imagine they would help others as well.

1. When I see an article that I might be interested in, usually all I have to go by is its title. If you would put a short summary at the front of each article, telling what the article is about, who is its intended audience (e.g., sysops, general public, etc.), and what the author wants me to learn from reading the article, it would be most helpful in sorting through the various articles. This could easily be done in an unstructured way in the first paragraph of the article.

2. Don't assume that everyone is familiar with the jargon you guys use. We are not. When you use something not generally known, explain it every-so-often for the beginner.

3. Provide regular articles for the beginner. Call them beginner's articles on (whatever). This way the beginner could be brought along at an easy pace instead of struggling with every sentence of every article. It can still be an interesting magazine to produce, because of the excitement of helping create future experts. The Beginners Corner, in the last issue, wasn't for beginners at all, but for new sysops.

4. I want to know what bulletin boards I can reach from my local area code without paying a toll. The listing you give in each issue is sorted by name of bulletin board. All I care about is the area code, not the name. Give me a sorting by area code, at least every few months. Who cares about the names of bulletin boards anyhow?

I believe you have a very good magazine. I know it is already highly respected. I just would like to be able to read it more easily

and be able to easily use the tabulated information you have gone to such great lengths to prepare.

Sincerely,

Joe Guinn
5101 Stacey Ave
Fort Worth TX 76132

Joe:

It's a problem. Part of our game is to pack a lot of stuff into a relative handful of pages. We could fill the magazine reiteratively with explanations of acronyms, terms, and information for beginners, and I'm sure it would be popular given that there are probably 10,000 people making the connection for the first time every day now. But it's just not the publication I want to do. It's a little self-centered, but we talk about what I found interesting this month.

That said, I think we can probably afford something of a glossary at this point. The number of new terms and jargon items entering this scene is actually accelerating to the point where none of us can keep it all straight anymore. I would say you could look for something along those lines in the next issue or so.

Jack Rickard

Jack Rickard

I have been reviewing some of the old issues of BW and was struck by the "wisdom" of your past editorials. You do have vision and insight. And except for your blanket criticism of public education, I find your views and advice to be wise.

I look forward to seeing, maybe meeting, you at ONE BBSCON. Looks like our BBS, YEBB is going to be one of the "TOP 100".

Ray Christensen
YEBB (Youth Education BBS)
RAY.CHRISTENSEN@YEBB.AUGIE.EDU

Ray:

Thanks for writing. Vision and insight - except for where we disagree? I love it.

Attempting to collect and distill so many activities of so many individuals across such a panoply of change and an industry this volatile, and present it in some useful and clarifying way, lensing it if you will, is indeed a day's work. But without it, we're basically printing product announcements. We've missed on occasion, but yeah, if you go back over the last seven years of Boardwatch, it's a little scary. Keep reading.

Good luck with Youth Education BBS.

Jack Rickard

Only **MUSTANG SOFTWARE**

Could Introduce The Industry's

FIRST

BBS SUITE.™



You know what you need: a multi-user system with LAN connectivity as well as dial-in access, robust database management, E-mail gateways, fax-on-demand services, and a programmable RIP graphical user interface. And here it is: the Wildcat! BBS Suite™ from Mustang Software.

Think of the control and convenience at your fingertips. Think of the time and money you'll save. Think how productive your company will be when you implement the most powerful BBS package in the industry.

For only \$999, you get everything you need to move your corporate environment into a new world of online communications with Wildcat!, The World's Most Popular BBS Software™. The BBS Suite includes our top-of-the-line Wildcat! MultiLine Platinum BBS, wcPRO Utilities package, wcGATE Internet/MHS mail gateway, and wcCODE Custom Online Development Engine. All in one easy-to-use integrated package. And only an industry leader like Mustang Software could bring it to you.

The wcPRO Utilities provide you with flexible user, message and file database power. You can create custom reports with more than 20 pages of online statistics, develop command line macros for nightly batch processing, and export BBS data into other formats for your other applications. Our relational database handling makes managing your BBS callers, files and messages quick and easy. The wcPRO Utilities package also includes our fax-on-demand processor, wcFAX, so your customers or other outside sales people can request data online and receive product literature, forms and other documents via their fax.

A sophisticated messaging gateway, wcGATE, enables your callers to send and receive Internet E-Mail and news right from your BBS without having to know a single Internet command. Built-in support for satellite connections means your staff can have a constant flow of Internet information at their fingertips. wcGATE also allows you to transfer BBS messages to your company's favorite MHS compatible E-Mail package. Outside salespeople and remote offices can leave messages on the BBS and have them directed to the appropriate mail box on your LAN using Novell's Message Handling Service (MHS).

wcCODE allows you to develop custom applications to enhance or change Wildcat!'s operation. BASIC-like syntax combined with an Integrated

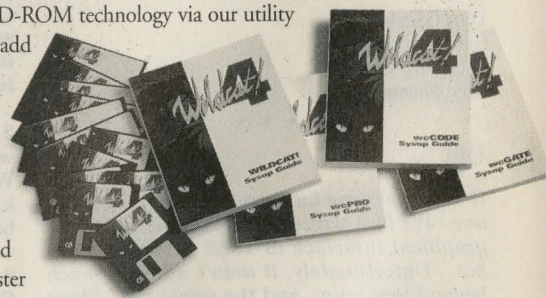
Development Environment makes it easy to use the more than 200 built-in functions, including access to Wildcat!'s internal operations. You can create applications like on-line order systems or callback verifiers, or customize Wildcat!'s user interface to give you the ultimate corporate bulletin board system.

And the list of advanced BBS features goes on. Your users will also enjoy wcCHAT, our new online conferencing chat system, which features public and private channels, Sysop-definable action words, even moderated conferencing. Wildcat! supports CD-ROM technology via our utility wcFILE, so you can add files to your BBS quickly and easily. You'll appreciate wcMAIL, our .QWK mail door for off-line messaging, that now imports and retrieves messages faster

than ever with message sizes up to 64KB in length. For customer response polls, tap into the power of MAKEQUES, a full-featured questionnaire editor to create online surveys with yes/no, multiple choice, free form and formatted input fields.

Everything you need to set up and control a complete BBS environment is available in one solution. Everything in our suite is written and supported by Mustang Software. And at \$999, The BBS Suite saves you hundreds of dollars over buying each package separately.

If you've been considering setting up a corporate or business BBS for live, interactive communications, this is the *only* way to go. Give us a call today. We'll save you a lot of time and money. And give you the ultimate BBS tool: The BBS Suite.



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LINUX JOURNAL MAGAZINE

Linux is a free implementation of an essentially UNIX operating system most popular on the personal computer platform. Linux is not precisely public domain software. In fact it isn't precisely UNIX. Distributed under the GNU Public License, the source code to Linux is freely available. Many people around the world have worked together to write it, under the direction of the original author, Linus Torvalds. Each holds copyright to the code they wrote. So it's kind of a UNIX implementation designed by committee online.

In a world of \$1500 UNIX operating systems for the PC, the free nature of this operating system, and the open and experimental architecture have drawn a following. The operating system includes TCP/IP, news, e-mail, and is inherently easy to use with the Internet.

With a May rollout of issue number 1, Specialized Systems Consultants Inc of Seattle began publication of the **LINUX JOURNAL - THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE LINUX COMMUNITY**. This monthly publication covers the operating system itself, and the wealth of add-ons, application programs, etc. available for it. In the September issue, we learned about James MacLean's DOSEMU DOS emulator for Linux, the EMACS editor, a report on a Linux conference held in Heidelberg, and a story about the Roger Maris Cancer Center which uses Linux. The 48 page publication carries advertising for associated products, all of very low cost. The full operating system with utilities and a grab bag of goodies can be bought from at least three distributors on CD-ROM for as little as \$29.95.

The book is published monthly at \$19 per year. Linux Journal, Specialized Systems Consultants, Inc., PO Box 85867, Seattle, WA 98145; (206)527-3385 voice; (206)527-2806 fax; Internet: subs@ssc.com.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GRAPHICS FILE FORMATS

Our favorite book publisher on technical topics is a company called

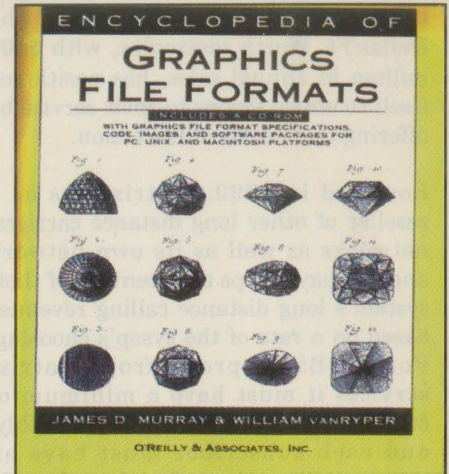
O'Reilly and Associates Inc. These guys are a hoot with their covers with animal art on them, but they do some very solid books and intentionally seem to pick off the most gruesomely technical topics they can find. We raved over their SENDMAIL book. And they've done it again.

The whole online community is struggling to deal with graphical interfaces, graphic file formats, readers, viewers, etc. O'Reilly just published the Encyclopedia of Graphics File Formats, written by James D. Murray and William vanRyper, one of the largest books they've ever published at 928 pages, that covers over 100 different graphics file formats such as GIF, TIFF, TGA, and BMP but also newer or specialized formats, like SGI YAODL, Rayshade, and Facesaver. If you are a graphics programmer who needs to know the details of a format (whether it's big or little-endian, how many colors can be stored, and precisely what data appears in each bit or pixel) or anyone else who needs to deal with the low-level technical details of graphics files, this book is for you. It is for programmers on any platform—MS-DOS, Windows, OS/2, UNIX, the Macintosh, and others.

In addition to describing the details of the file formats, the Encyclopedia of Graphics File Formats contains a detailed discussion of graphics concepts and programming, covering such topics as types of graphics data (vector, bitmap, metafile, scene description, animation, multimedia), truecolor, palettes, and color—its perception, conversion, and quantization.

It describes in detail different methods of compressing graphics data (e.g., run-length encoding, LZW, CCITT, JPEG) and ways of converting from one type of file format to another. It also includes information on new graphics initiatives, including JPEG (an emerging image data compression standard of particular interest in multimedia technology) and MPEG (a set of digital and audio compression standards for sound and motion picture data).

The book comes with a CD-ROM on which they've included a collection of resources that are hard to find (in many cases, they have never before been



Encyclopedia of Graphics File Formats

available outside the organizations that developed them). They've assembled original file format specification documents from such vendors as Adobe, Aldus, Apple, IBM, Microsoft, and Silicon Graphics, along with test images and code examples for many of the formats. Also on the CD-ROM is a set of publicly available software—for MS-DOS, Windows, OS/2, UNIX, and Macintosh platforms—that will let you convert, view, and manipulate graphics files and images.

The book/CD-ROM is pricey at \$59.95 but has the good stuff if you need to deal with graphic files. It's available directly from O'Reilly at 800-889-8969; e-mail order@ora.com. For information: telephone 707-829-0515 (800-998-9938 in US & Canada); FAX 707-829-0104; email nuts@ora.com; or write O'Reilly & Associates, 103A Morris St., Sebastopol, CA, 95472, USA. Access their online gopher catalog via "telnet gopher.ora.com" (log in as "gopher" — no password needed).

A CUT OF THE LONG DISTANCE PIE

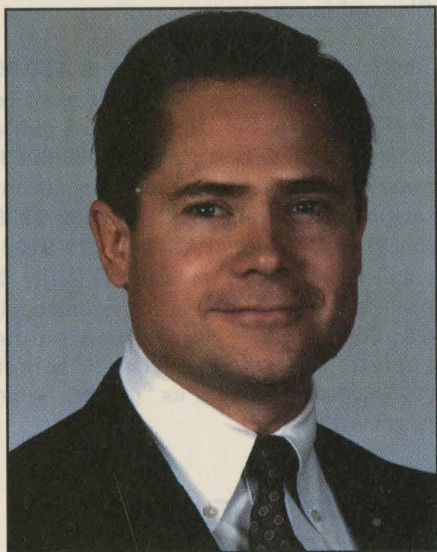
by Brian Gallagher

For years long distance carriers have been garnering a huge windfall from long distance calls to BBSs around the nation and the world, with none of these substantial revenues going to sysops. All that is about to change, as Matrix Telecom, a long distance carrier

with 250,000 customers and an integral part of United Companies, of the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex, with \$400 million in annual sales, has positioned itself to entice sysops to their service by offering them a cut of the action.

Founded in 1990, Matrix acts as a reseller of other long distance carriers' networks as well as its own network and will pay sysops a percentage of their system's long distance calling revenues based on a rate of the sysop's choosing. For a BBS to profit from Matrix' services it must have a minimum of 50,000 minutes of toll calling monthly, and each subscriber must have an average billing time of no less than 60 minutes each month.

The reason for the sizable system requirements are the costs involved in joining the Matrix network. A T-1 line is required typically costing between \$500 to \$1,000 for installation with a monthly lease charge of around \$500, however, lease charges can largely be offset by the costs of the 24 telephone lines it will eliminate. In addition, Matrix charges a one-time set up fee of \$250.



**Mike Harkins - Director of Sales
for Matrix**

There is likely no increase in costs to subscribers as it is the sysop who chooses the rate long distance callers will pay and consequently how much of a percentage they will receive. For example, if a sysop chooses to charge a low 15 cents per minute for long distance calls, he or she would receive a check for 4 percent of the revenues for

RETAIL RATE/ COMMISSION OPTIONS (Interstate Only)

| Retail Rate | Commission |
|---------------|---------------|
| \$1400 | 0.00% |
| \$1500 | 4.00% |
| \$1600 | 7.50% |
| \$1667 | 10.00% |
| \$1700 | 12.50% |
| \$1800 | 15.00% |
| \$1900 | 17.50% |
| \$2000 | 20.00% |

those calls. If the sysop were inclined to charge a higher 20 cent per minute rate, they would receive a check for 20 percent of the revenue for those calls. (For additional pricing structures, please see the rate diagram accompanying this article.)

We did some number crunching and a system charging the 16.667 cent per minute long distance rate, running 10 lines with three hours of long distance calls per day, everyday, on all 10 lines, would garner approximately \$900 in revenues monthly.

Callers' telephone bills will not be affected as the charges through Matrix will appear on their regular statement, at the sysop-chosen rates. And, depending on the rate the sysop chooses, it is possible callers will actually be paying less than previously by connecting to a system with the Matrix service.

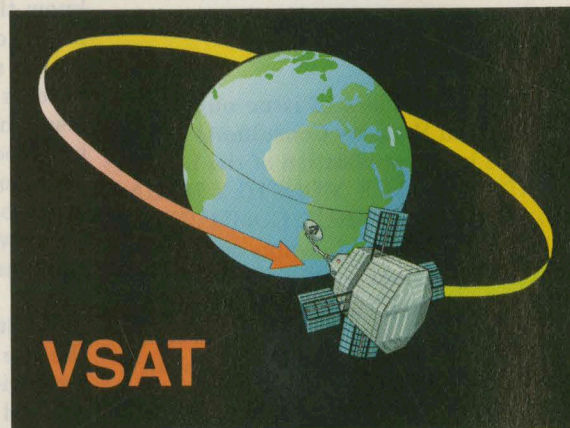
Matrix was founded by Texas multi-millionaire Ron Jensen who went looking for a better long distance calling plan for a group of insurance companies with which he is involved. After deciding he could do better, Matrix was born. For more information call Mike Harkins, director of sales for Matrix at (817)581-9380 voice; (817)788-3046 fax; or leave a message on their BBS, (817)788-3038. Matrix Telecom, attn: Mike Harkins, 9003 Airport Freeway #340, Ft. Worth, TX 76180.

TIME DOMAIN - NEW BBS NETWORK LINKED BY SATELLITE

by Brian Gallagher

Every sysop and their brother, and their cousins too - want their piece of the Internet pie. While the fight for bandwidth rages among providers and users, an Orlando, Florida company is looking for its pie in the sky - via a private satellite data network, providing interactive multimedia communications between its hub and over 200 systems in major cities across the United States by early 1996.

Touting their plan as a high-powered alternative to Prodigy, CompuServe, Genie, America Online, Delphi and the



rest, David Wenbert, CEO of Time Domain and Company, and Stephen Levin, President and Chief Operating Officer, envision a network comprised of Frisbee-sized, roof mounted VSAT satellite dishes connected through a seven meter dish at an Orlando hub.

Transfer rates between the hub and the VSAT "knowledge capture points" will reach 512 Kbps outbound and 256 Kbps inbound, significantly faster than a 56Kbps leased line or X-25 packet network which also typically run 56 Kbps. This copious bandwidth transfers into some astounding per channel transfer/download rates - 9.6 MB per second with a new and proprietary 600 to 1 data compression technique for video and images, via a 132 MB PCI I/O bus and a 667 MB system bus. Information exchange at this volume and speed will enable the network, Levin said, to become the first "vid-mail post office." To assimilate this data onslaught, some



David Wenbert (left) and Stephen Levin (Right) of Time Domain

pretty hefty hardware will be required, heftier even than the fastest Pentium machines, but there are others...

How about a CPU multiprocessing array utilizing four DEC Alpha 325 Mhz RISC chips, with an unheard of 2 gigabytes of RAM, and a potential 128 gigabyte RAID array, composed of up to 32 four gigabyte scuzzy II hard drives. This microwave sized super computer linked to a 100 CD ROM juke box with read/write capabilities and a flat bed scanner with automatic page feeder is more than the ultimate BBS machine, it is practically unthinkable. The Orlando hub will have an AMPEX DST 810 automated cartridge library, with numerous 50 gigabyte cassettes (about the size of a standard video tape) capable of storing 13 terrabytes of online storage (13 million megabytes), that's 4 billion typed pages or 256 million credit reports. This is more than a dream machine and set up, it's fantasy material.

The system will run under Windows N/T Advanced Server Operating System with a custom version of the Major BBS connecting to the other capture points through Time Domain's proprietary Generic Heuristic Omniscient Server Technology Network, or GHOSTNET. Major was chosen because of its open ended architecture and wealth of third party developers. By connecting the

systems in this way, Time Domain skirts long distance carrier charges, which hold so many other systems hostage, and will offer all basic services to the system for **\$1** per call for as long as the caller wishes to stay online.

Setting up the 200+ systems around the nation is going to be quite a task, one that Time Domain is looking for sysops to help out with. In fact, for a sysop willing to "sell" their hardware to the company, become an employee of the company with stock options, a salary - dependent upon their qualifications and how many subscribers they have on their systems, and forsake their freedom as a free wheeling independent sysops, god-like in all respects - they will bring one of these beauties in and set it up in your basement.

By purchasing existing sysops' BBSs around the country, Time Domain hopes to garner the knowledge, skill and subscribers already in the business and gain an instant foot-hold with local calling access for an estimated 100,000 people. (All existing subscribers to a BBS purchased by Time Domain will receive a complimentary subscription to the service over local toll free lines for up to one year.) In addition, anything the Internet has to offer will also be carried over the network. Online legal, tax, financial and medical consultation for a **\$1** per minute fee is also planned,

as is a new level of live virtual reality multi-user simulation adventures.

All subscriber fees for the new network will be collected by Time Domain through checking accounts, credit cards and the use of 976 toll calls charged through the local telephone company. Financial backing for this high flying network will come from a merger between Time Domain and another public company with the initial funds likely to come from a private investor through a Wall Street investment banking firm already involved in multimedia/telecommunications ventures. Wenbert, who has a work history in investment banking and merger acquisitions, said the project is likely to start with a price tag of **\$30** million and the merger is slated to take place in the fourth quarter of 1994.

"Most of the system operators are not making a profit," Levin said, "I'll be happy to change that for them. They can quit their day job and do it (BBS) full time." At this time there are a dozen individuals, engineers, technical gurus, physicists and Levin, who is a computer sales consultant for a major retail computer chain and has been a sysop in St. Louis and central Florida for 10 years, who have put their time and money over the last year into making Time Domain a reality.

For sysops interested in becoming a capture point for Time Domain - be prepared to sit down with no less than seven pages of forms detailing the bowels of your system and its history in strict contract legalese. For more information call Wenbert, **(407)857-8242** voice; or write, Time Domain & Company, attn: David Wenbert, Technology Consulting Center, Suite 2000, 822 East Wallace Street, Orlando, FL 32809.

ONLINE PAYMENTS BY PERSONAL CHECK ELECTRONICALLY

by Brian Gallagher

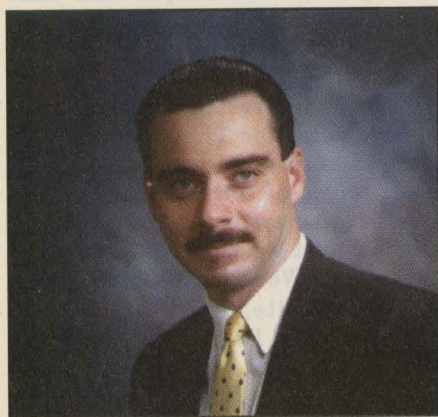
At the 1896 Chicago Democratic National Convention, William Jennings Bryan's platform focused primarily on changing the monetary system in America to a silver standard, rather than the gold standard. "You shall not press down upon the brow of

labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold," Bryan so eloquently stated. While Bryan lost the election to William McKinley and the silver standard never was adopted, he would likely turn over in his grave if he knew that the "signature standard" is no longer enforced today.

With the introduction of credit cards in the early '70s, retailers were careful to check IDs, get phone numbers, names and the all important signature - a must for a legal transaction. Today, any retailer can tell you that all of this is largely for naught, signatures included - as the only thing that really matters in processing credit card purchases today are the numbers. A natural progression to this monetary finagling is a year old FDIC ruling allowing checks to be processed without signatures as well.

The reason for this onslaught of signatureless, and often paperless method of transactions is that signatures don't fit very well inside of phone lines, while numbers and letters fit readily and travel quickly and easily when placed so.

Applying this new found freedom to the



**Darren Humay - CEO
American Banking Systems**

BBS world seemed a logical progression, at least that's what Darren Humay, Chief Executive Officer of American Banking Systems, of Niceville, Florida was banking on when he went to the ONE BBSCON convention in Atlanta on August 17 - 21. Signing up over 700 bulletin board systems at the show, it looks as if his speculating paid off.

The service offers Checks Direct - the paper draft processing aspect of their service, and Dollars Direct, the elec-

tronic funds transfer aspect of their service. Both begin with the name, address, city, state and zip code, a nine digit routing number (on the bottom of checks identifying the bank) and a driver's license or social security number (for security purposes) of the party wishing to transfer their funds electronically. From here the information is sent to ABS and processed through their security algorithms and accounting departments. Through Checks Direct a paper demand draft is generated and deposited in the retailers account usually within 48 hours; through Dollars Direct, funds are transferred electronically, with no paper involved whatsoever.

The security algorithms ABS has been using in the telemarketing, mail order, and charitable industries has proven effective. Humay said, over the last four years ABS has experienced less than 10 cases of check fraud with most of the offenders being caught. If these odds aren't good enough, ABS offers a check guaranty service, for an additional fee, which guarantees all items they process.

The cost of the service to retailers is based on the amount of moneys transferred through ABS - the higher the amount of the check, the lower the percentage charge, with the highest rate being 1 percent the value of the check, or \$1 per transaction.

Several third party developers are in the process of writing doors, or modules to support ABS, according to guidelines provided by the company. The Major BBS, Wildcat!, Remote Access, PCBoard, TBBS and First Class BBS platforms will likely be supported as well as DOS, Windows, Macintosh, OS/2 and UNIX operating systems.

For sysops looking to expand their subscriber base by making it easier for people to pay in the 1990s, crosses of gold generally hang around the necks of believers and spending money is done at the speed of light - believe it."

For more information about ABS, call their voice line at (904)729-3006, or write: American Banking Systems Corporation, 497 20th Street, Niceville, FL 32578-3264.

BBS DIRECT - PC PURSUIT SUCCESSOR ON STERIODS

by Brian Gallagher

The battle among telecommunication companies is raging on all fronts. It seems every other television advertisement is telling you to switch your carrier because you'll save money, the other guys are cheats, our telephone lines are clearer - "here listen to a pin drop," and our teeth are whiter when we smile, and we always smile.

Similarly, the battle among teleconnection companies, sporting T-1s and X-25s offering local calling access to hundreds of cities nation-and world-wide specific to the online realm, is also heating up. More and more often we see services offering to hook you up to an alternative network, or even use pieces of an existing network at a cheaper rate. for BBSers the end result is almost entirely good - cheaper rates, better connectivity with higher transfer rates, more points of presence in more cities, and (hopefully) better service.



One of the more interesting experiments in all of this was Telenet's PC PURSUIT service popular in the late 1980s. Originally, this X.25 packet network allowed callers to dial into a local access number in any of several hundred cities, grab a modem in any of about 30 destination cities, and use that modem to dial OUT to local bulletin boards in the area. The magic was the pricing, \$25 per month for unlimited non-prime usage. The service was limited to 2400 bps, Telenet was bought by Sprint, and after reaching a high of some 5000 users died out when 2400 bps and X.25 was no longer an accept-

able performance, and the service wasn't profitable enough to upgrade it. Since then, bargain hunters looking for cheap X.25 long distance service haven't had much to pick from.

Entering the fray late this September is Concentric Research with their BBS Direct service. By using frame relay technology, touted as having higher transmission speeds, low network delay and a more effective use of bandwidth, Concentric Research hopes to appeal to syops and callers' thirst for speed. The system will open at 14.4 kbps and is slated to be running 28.8 kbps by year's end.

The network, part of an August 15th deal between Concentric Research and Racal-Datcom, Inc., a Sunrise, Florida based company dealing with the telecommunications industry, valued at **\$9.5 million** in network equipment and services, will offer callers a **\$30** per month flat rate for unlimited use, which will also include a free gateway to CRIS, Concentric's online information and entertainment service with full Internet connectivity.

Initially the service will offer local dial-up access in 100 of the largest metropolitan areas, expanding to 350 over the next 18 months. Even with the expansion, however, 350 POPs is hardly comparable to the 1,100 offered by some competitors. Taking up a part of this slack will be an 800 number at **\$10** per month. Your **\$10** will get you two hours of long distance calling through their network with additional hours costing **\$5** per.

At the ONE BBSCON show in Atlanta, August 17 - 21, Concentric signed up 30 BBSs to the BBS Direct service. If Concentric deems a system to be large enough, with a large enough customer base it will install the necessary equipment at no cost to the system save a **\$100** annual contract fee. Depending upon the amount of traffic projected, and the number of ports a sysop is willing to dedicate to the service, a 56 kbps, 128 kbps, or T-1 line will be installed along with a Wellfleet router via Racal-Datcom, a Wellfleet value-added reseller.

Concentric Research Corporation, 400 Forty-First Street, Bay City, MI 48708; (800)745-CRIS voice; (517)895-0500 voice; (517)895-0510 BBS; (517)895-0529 fax.

GRAPHIC INTERFACE

The TeleGrafix Communications, Inc. group, led by an ebullient Pat Clawson, was showing the new RIP version 2.0 with JPEG photo-realistic graphics to an enthusiastic crowd. While the graphics were a knockout, the enthusiasm was somewhat dampened by the note that 2.0 is STILL coming, still in beta, and that TeleGrafix planned on charging a nominal fee for callers to use the terminal program. The fee was variously reported as **\$20**, **\$10**, and that they would be shipping a million copies free, but with an **\$8.99** shipping and handling charge. Rest In Peace.

eSoft was showing RIP 2.0 on their TBBS demonstration system, but Angela Pope rather stole the show there by walking in with a diskette and demonstrating her TBBS system for her Florida newspaper, with RIP graphics. Probably thirty newspaper people were wandering the convention with a very serious eye to the technology and what was possible. Bob Baskerville of MMB Development made some headway with this crowd with his UNIX-based TEAMate product.

Windows clients and servers were very much the rage at ONE BBSCON this year. Seth Hamilton, developer of ROBOFX, was down from Ottawa showing a new product he calls MediaHost that acts as a BBS and comes with a free Windows client. The system is not only very stunning graphically, but uses a packet communication system over the modem to support multiple simultaneous activities over one dialup line. This 18 year-old Ottawa native, when armed with a compiler, should be considered a deadly weapon in this industry. And MediaHost and the accompanying MediaBase product was indeed causing injury on the floor among attendees.

Softarc, long a leading presence in the Macintosh community with their FIRSTCLASS BBS package, is playing an extremely strong strategy across multiple platforms. Not only do they have Macintosh and Windows client software, but they are moving the host software onto Microsoft Windows AND UNIX - promising to fully cross all barriers with both host software and client software. Additionally, they have some absolutely mind blowing capabilities to use NCSA Mosaic as a front end

for e-mail, and conversely, e-mail with links to graphics, video, audio, etc. Multimedia e-mail that is effortless to use. This too changed the world view of interactive bulletin boards. They sported a gorgeous booth display that attracted quite a bit of attention.

Novalink Professional for the Macintosh was also demonstrating some stunning screens, along with very capable Internet connectivity.

Darkstar nearly stole the show from way out in left field with demonstrations of their Darkstar BBS. The product actually transfers and plays video clips in .FLI format, sound files in .WAV format, and graphics as an integral part of the BBS design. The result is VERY multimedia, the package very inexpensive. Still in development, the beta version we were offered wouldn't actually answer the telephone yet, but they promised it was ready soon.

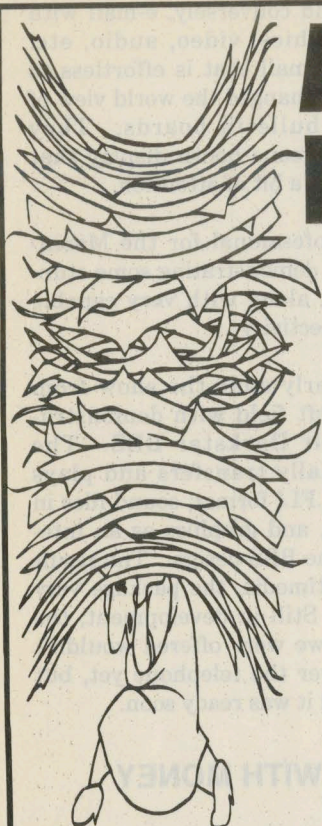
DEALING WITH MONEY

Dealing with money online was a surprisingly big topic. Bob Houston gave a presentation on NetCash, subject of an earlier Boardwatch article on this ASCII e-mail method of swapping money online.

A surprise guest in the seminar circle was Dr. David Chaum, one of the leading cryptographic experts in the world who actually designed an automated payment system now in use on some toll roads. Dr. Chaum presented information on his DigiCash system, similar to NetCash but with stronger security features.

American Banking System was on hand to talk about a system where BBS operators could allow callers to provide the routing number and account number of a personal check and authorize payments WITHOUT any Master Card or Visa - essentially an electronic version of paying by personal check. They claimed to have signed up over 700 BBS operators for this service at their booth.

Galacticomm had a fairly enormous booth showing their Major BBS, Major BBS for UNIX, and their new Internet Connection Option. But they also had a separate test setup with a company called Equinox. Stung by the recent software performance comparisons with eSoft's TBBS, they have moved the game to hardware by teaming with a



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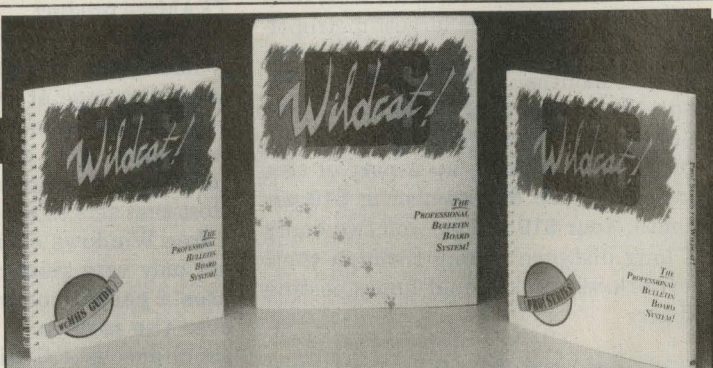
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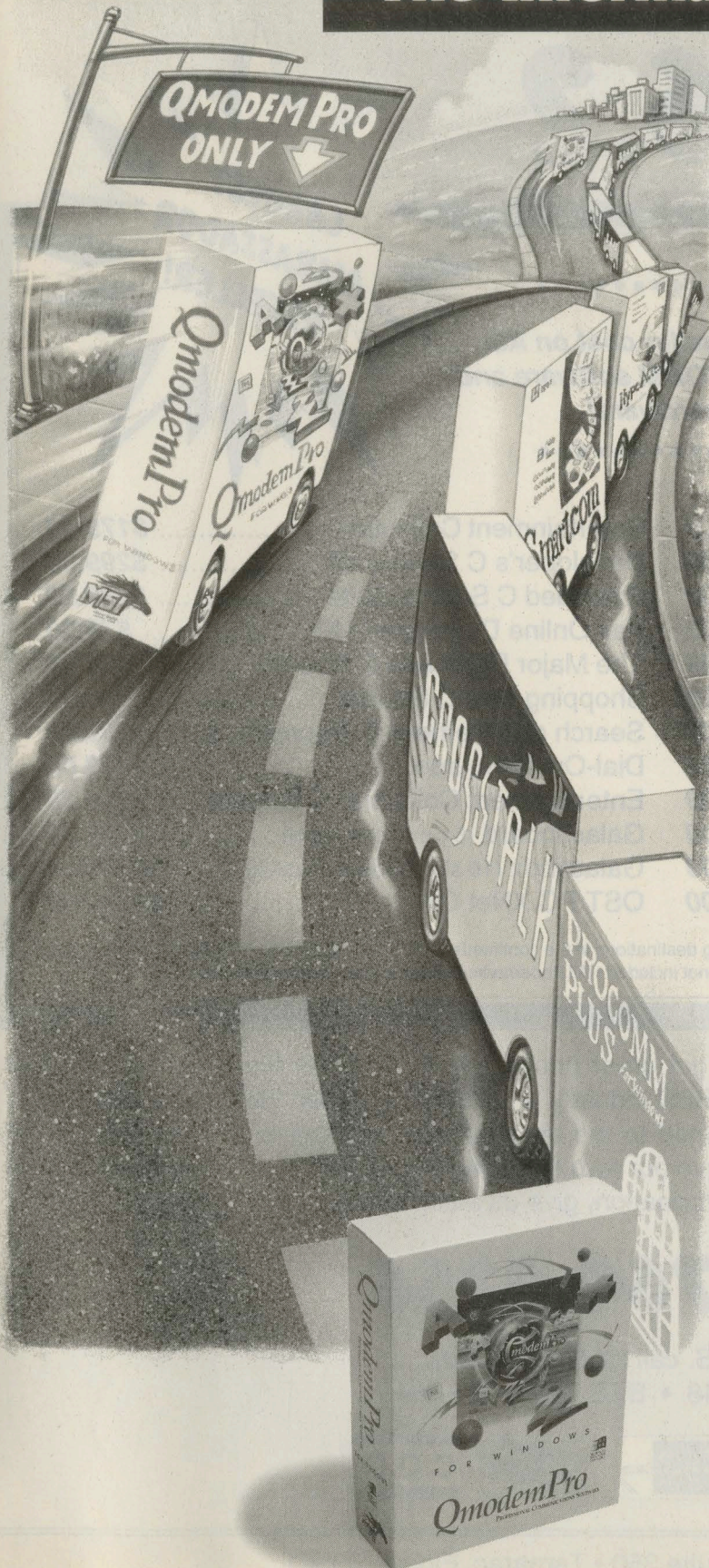
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QmodemPro for Windows is the first Windows product to support RIPscrip graphics, so you can plug into the thousands of BBSs offering graphics and full mouse support online. It also has more than 30 of the most popular terminal emulations, 10 built-in file transfer protocols including Zmodem, CIS B+ and Kermit, plus up to 40 programmable macro buttons. QmodemPro for Windows also lets you associate icons to each entry in your dialing directory, so you can create a true Windows phonebook. Each phonebook entry tracks up to 5 numbers, and groups of entries can be saved and dialed.

With QmodemPro for Windows, file transfers are made easy with features like drag-and-drop uploads from the Windows File Manager and live .GIF file viewing during downloads. The built-in .GIF viewer lets you zoom .GIF and .BMP files, or mark and copy portions of the picture to the Windows clipboard. You can put the Windows multitasking environment to work: use it to transfer files in the background while you work in your word processor or spreadsheet applications, or get in a few quick games of Solitaire. No other communications software does Windows like QmodemPro.

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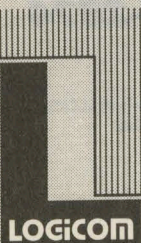
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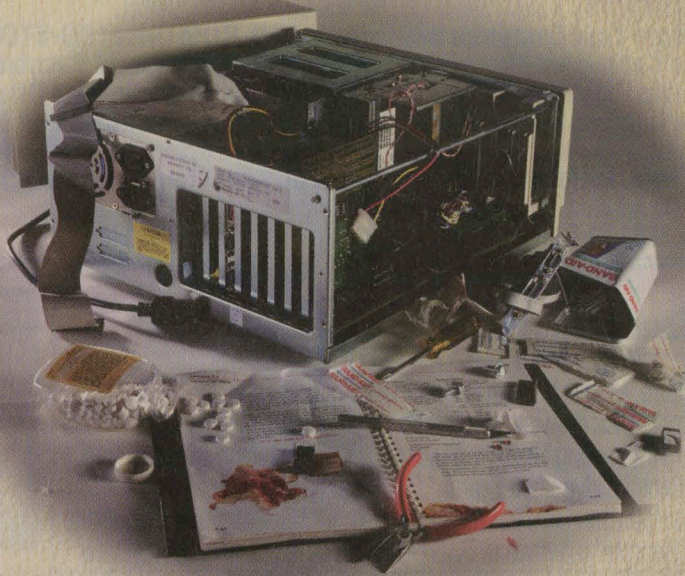
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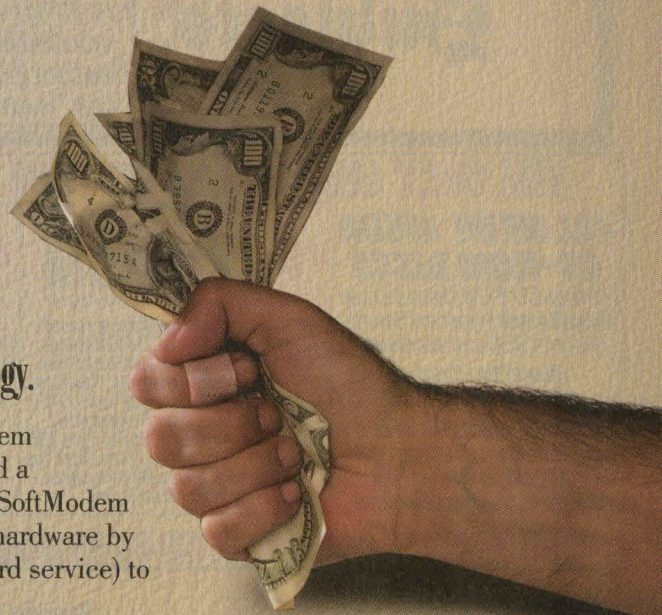
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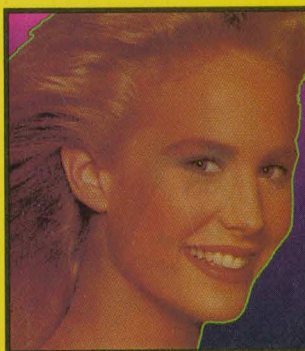
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manufacturer of smart serial cards. They showed an impressive 128 lines connected in their test setup, and the system was transferring files at 38,400 bps on all ports in very impressive fashion. In the same move became the first multiline BBS software to convincingly support 230 kbps port speeds. Equinox has developed some smart serial port hardware that may be the most elegant we've ever seen. The ports can be configured for speeds up to 230 kbps. A single PC adapter card plugs into the motherboard, and a cable runs out to an absolutely elegant little device that sports 16 RJ-45 modular connectors that are in fact serial port connections. It also has a single more conventional D connector in the side allowing you to plug a SECOND 16 port segment directly into the first - without cables. You can gang these to provide up to 128 ports - all fed from a single slot on the motherboard and running at some very impressive port speeds. Galacticomm and Equinox had worked together on a driver to allow Major BBS to use the system. And it purported to triple the aggregate cps for the system to over 600,000 cps from a single Pentium PC - essentially tripling the file download capabilities of Galacticomm's Major BBS system. When used with this option. They had recently added the Galacticomm Custom Device Interface GCDI for hooking in TCP/IP and other such drivers, and the Equinox interface was a fortuitous byproduct.

Mustang Software rented a session room at ONE BBSCON to hold a dedicated symposium they called Mustang University. They held educational sessions and workshops on various communications products there continuously from early Thursday afternoon through the end of Saturday, with Wildcat sysops able to learn advanced tricks on running a Wildcat BBS using an array of tools including the new WcCODE programming language. By all accounts, the Wildcat BBS operators were very taken with the format and depth of this coordinated series of sessions.

Thursday evening, the event broke into a series of semi-private hospitality suites across the town. We develop a small utility program titled PIMP for porting e-mail and newsgroups to the Internet via UUCP, and several operators on the support mailing list mentioned they'd like to get together. So we put together a little get-together

at the Presidential suite of the Westin Peachtree Plaza hotel, expecting 15 or 20 PIMPsters to stop by. Over 200 attended, and drank the PIMP project into non-profit organization status on Thursday evening. It was one of those surprising turn of events that keep us forever young.

Friday evening, a series of very open hospitality suites were held on the 10th floor of the Marriott Marquis hotel - a dramatic scene with a huge open atrium from the lobby up some 45 floors. A dixieland band provided entertainment with vendors offering hospitality areas and food including Hayes Microcomputer Development, ZyXEL USA, deltaComm Development, Galacticomm, Inc., eSoft, Inc., and Boardwatch.

Also on Friday, the Ziff Davis Interactive group hosted a banquet at the Marriot honoring shareware authors and products in an awards ceremony.

Saturday evening was the John C. Dvorak Awards for Technical Excellence in PC Telecommunications. Hosted for the third year at ONE BBSCON, this year's awards presentation was sponsored by Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc. The presentations

were made at a banquet in the Marriot Marquis.

The lifetime achievement award winner this year was Don Watkins, sysop of the IBMnet series of forums on the CompuServe Information Service. This quiet, unassuming man has been working in the BBS and online community for over 15 years, operating bulletin boards, supporting user groups, and essentially brought CompuServe to the table with specialized forums in the early days of the service. The IBMnet forum, for example, supports one of the largest online gatherings of BBS operators in the world every day.

Watkins was congratulated by Ward Christensen and Dennis C. Hayes, previous lifetime achievement winners.

Other winners of the Dvorak Awards included:

- America Online, Inc., - Best Commercial Online Information System
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PAINT SHOP PRO 2.0 - A GOOD GRAPHICS UTILITY GETS BETTER

By Alan D. Bryant

It all started as a joke. The ladies around the office wondered aloud just once too often what it would look like to see our own Adam Hudson just a little taller, just a little better built, and with just a bit less clothing. Not being one to miss participating in a little intraoffice humor, I knew just what my mission was to be: paste the head of our Adam onto the body of whatever I could scrape up on the local BBS circuit.

Being scannerless, getting Adam's head electronically would be tough. I decided to turn to my friends at Boardwatch. I dropped in on a Thursday in the early evening, and outlined what I was after for Jack, who promptly dispatched staffer Charlie Moore to track down a pair of Kodak Photo-CDs from within a rather elaborate horizontal filing system. In a few minutes, Charlie was able to extract the CDs. Jack handed me the discs with a brief note that he recommended HiJaak for Windows for reading the images. Remembering that I'd bought a copy of HiJaak, I dashed home prepared to do business.

Upon arrival, however, it became painfully obvious that I had dreamt the whole thing about owning HiJaak (maybe it was the coffee at Boardwatch that did it). So there I was, late at night, trying to figure out how I was going to read an image of the Photo-CDs. It was time for a shareware hunt.

Local Denver BBSs turned up dry on this front, with keyword searches for "kodak" and "photo" coming up empty. It was off to Chicago to Aquila, where Kevin Behrens and his crew didn't let me down - their Windows forum had several utilities that purported to support the Photo-CD. The one that caught my eye was Paint Shop Pro (PSP), a popular graphics utility for Windows. I'd used PSP before, but was never very enamored of its interface. Since this was a new version (2.0 in fact) I grabbed it.

After unzipping and installing PSP, it was immediately apparent that its makers had spent a lot of time enhancing the product for its 2.0 release. The basics of the program were the same as the earlier version, but everything had been enhanced and polished a great deal. In addition, they had added support for several new graphics formats, including the Kodak Photo-CD format I was after. The format line-up includes virtually everything you may need: BMP (Windows), GIF, PCD (that's the Photo-CD format I needed), PCX, TGA (Targa), common flavors of TIFF, the increasingly popular JPG / JIF, as well as several others you may need in a pinch.

I slammed the Photo-CD in my drive, and just a few mouse clicks later, I had the image I was after displayed on the screen in high resolution 24-bit color. Since I'd be using Corel PhotoPaint for

this job (not the best choice, but it's all I had), I saved the image as a 24-bit PCX file.

I shopped around on local BBS for a nice body on which to mount Adam's head, and managed to find something suitable, and remarkably enough, in good taste. But Adam's head wasn't the right size, so it was back to PSP for some adjustments.

On the return trip, I spent some time with their help system. Whoever wrote the help was clearly a better programmer than writer, with several grammatical errors making the reading a bit of a rough ride in some places. But aside from the technical merits of the writing, there was a wealth of information available about the program. The most striking part of the help system, however, was the extensive information available about each file format supported by the program. Each description was thorough, including a history, who is responsible for the format, and what various modes are available (color, 24-bit color, and so on). These descriptions taken as a whole constitute a valuable resource by themselves.

Another little gem in the help system was complete instructions on how to change the opening screen in Windows from the standard Windows logo on a blue box to something a bit more unique and creative.

In addition to displaying and converting between several common (and a few uncommon) bitmap image formats, the program has built-in facilities for capturing Windows screens. I tinkered with this briefly; it works great, and helps make PSP a one-stop bitmap graphics toolkit.

PSP doesn't really let you edit the image you're displaying per se, but you can tweak it in a variety of ways. Cropping and reducing are supported, and you can make adjustments to the image such as contrast, brightness, color depth, and conversion to grey scale. A color inversion effect called solarizing has a particularly neat effect on the image. Once the image has been adjusted as desired, you can save it in virtually all of its supported formats, or copy it to the Windows clipboard for pasting into another application.

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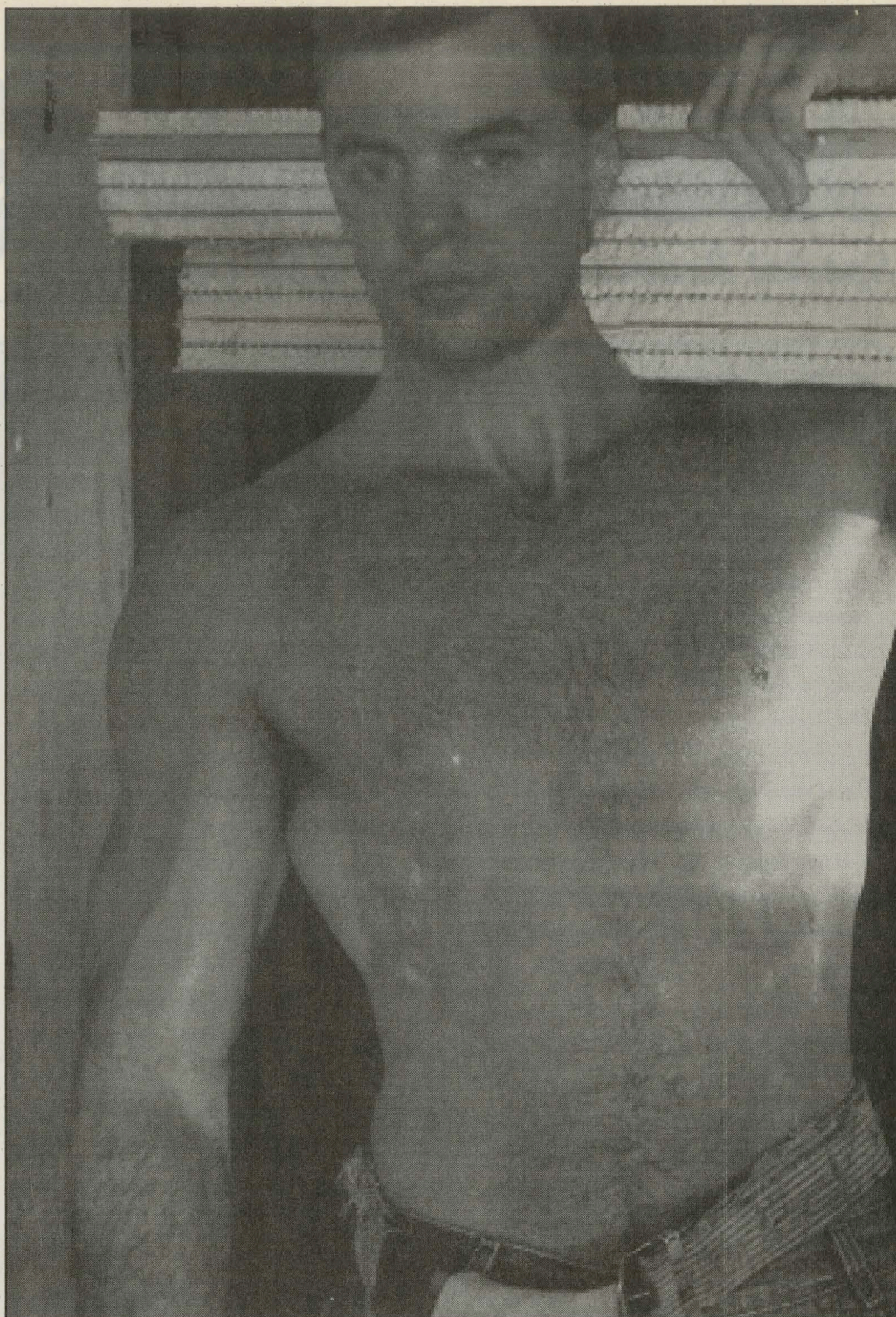
New with this version is a set of tools — a small window with six icons that stays on top of the image and can be moved anywhere on the screen. There's a hand tool to move the image within the window (when the image is larger than the window itself), and a zoom tool that lets you zoom in with a left mouse click and zoom out with a right mouse click. The remaining tools aren't of great value given the real mission with this program; in essence, they let you mark a rectangular area on the image and drag it to another place on the image.

Of somewhat greater value is the range of special effects filters. Broken into four categories (edge, normal, special, and user defined) the filters can be of great value in adjusting the overall image. The normal filters are the ones you'll likely use most often; they let you sharpen or soften an image. The special filters let you play with fun but probably not horribly useful effects like posterizing. User defined filters are available, and it's a concept I've not seen before. The program lets you custom create filters, designating what happens and to what degree. You can burn hours experimenting with the results of your tweaking.

JASC upped the price of their new version by \$20, bringing the registration cost to \$69. On par with commercial software price-wise, the product is also on par with commercial software in quality and robustness. It doesn't appear to have all the capabilities of something like HiJaak, but it comes close and you can try it before you buy with a minimum of "please register" nag screens.

In the end, I never did manage to get my Adam cut-and-paste job to look quite right, but it was fun trying, and it's always nice to discover a great new utility in the vast and sometimes lack-luster shareware arena.

Paint Shop Pro is available as PSP20A.ZIP and PSP20B.ZIP from Aquila



Venus de Adam al la Paint Shop Pro 2.0

BBS, Chicago, IL, (708) 820-8344 BBS, (708) 820-0480 Voice. It's also available via anonymous ftp as PSPRO20.ZIP from sites including oak.oakland.edu in the /pub/msdos/windows3 directory. Paint Shop Pro Version 2.0, JASC, Inc., 10901 Red Circle Drive, Suite 340, Minnetonka, MN 55343. (612) 930-9171 Voice, (612) 930-9172 Fax.

[Editor's note: Alan D. Bryant is a contributor to Boardwatch, and author of the book **Creating Successful Bulletin Board Systems**, published by Addison-Wesley, ISBN 0-201-62668-3.]

Modem Watch

BBS Discount Prices

Special Reduced Prices for BBS Operators

| VENDOR | MODEL | LIST | SYSOP | BBS | VOICE | FAX |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| AT&T Paradyne | Dataport 14.4/Fax | \$329 | \$165 | 813-532-5254 | 813-530-8276 | 813-530-2398 |
| ATI Technologies | 19200 ETC-E | \$279 | \$189 | 905-764-9404 | 905-882-2600 | 905-882-2620 |
| Cardinal Technologies | MVP192E 19.2k V.32terbo | \$229 | \$119 | 717-293-3074 | 717-293-3000 | 717-293-3104 |
| Computer Peripherals | Viva 9624e V.32 | \$349 | \$249 | 805-499-9646 | 805-499-5751 | 805-498-8306 |
| Digicom Systems, Inc | Scout Plus Terbo 19.2k | \$269 | \$155 | 408-262-1412 | 408-262-1277 | 408-262-1390 |
| Digicom Systems, Inc | Scout Plus Terbo for Mac | \$289 | \$160 | 408-262-1412 | 408-262-1277 | 408-262-1390 |
| Digicom Systems, Inc | Scout Classic V.32bis 14.4K | \$199 | \$109 | 408-262-1412 | 408-262-1277 | 408-262-1390 |
| GVC Technologies | | \$ | \$ | 201-579-2380 | 201-579-3630 | 201-579-2702 |
| GVC Technologies | | \$ | \$ | 201-579-2380 | 201-579-3630 | 201-579-2702 |
| Galaxy Networks | UFO V.32bis | \$999 | \$299 | No BBS | 818-998-7861 | 818-998-1758 |
| Hayes Microcomputer | Optima 288 V.FC + Fax | \$579 | \$288 | 404-446-6336 | 404-840-9200 | 404-449-0087 |
| Image Communications | Twincomm 9600 V.32 | \$299 | \$279 | No BBS | 201-935-8880 | 201-935-6548 |
| Intel Corporation | SatisFAXtion 400e 14.4k | \$399 | \$249 | 503-645-6275 | 503-629-7000 | 503-228-9707 |
| Intel Corporation | 14.4 External | \$199 | \$109 | 503-645-6275 | 503-629-7000 | 503-228-9707 |
| Microcom | DeskPorte FAST 28.8 | \$499 | \$249 | 617-255-1125 | 617-551-1000 | 617-551-1988 |
| Microcom | DeskPorte FAST ES 28.8 | \$299 | \$149 | 617-255-1125 | 617-551-1000 | 617-551-1988 |
| Multi-Tech Systems | MT1432BA | \$699 | \$350 | 612-785-9875 | 612-785-3500 | 612-785-9874 |
| Multi-Tech Systems | MT932BA | \$749 | \$375 | 612-785-9875 | 612-785-3500 | 612-785-9874 |
| Practical Peripherals | PC288SA V.FC | \$499 | \$220 | 805-496-4445 | 805-497-4774 | 805-374-7202 |
| Practical Peripherals | PC288MT V.FC | \$349 | \$160 | 805-496-4445 | 805-497-4774 | 805-374-7202 |
| Supra Corporation | SupraFax 28.8 V.FC | \$299 | \$169 | 503-967-2444 | 503-967-2400 | 503-967-2401 |
| Telebit Corporation | WorldBlazer | \$1099 | \$429 | 408-745-3861 | 800-835-3248 | 408-734-3333 |
| Telebit Corporation | QBlazer | \$599 | \$299 | 408-745-3861 | 800-835-3248 | 408-734-3333 |
| U.S. Robotics | Courier V.EVERYTHING w/V.FC | \$795 | \$249 | 708-982-5092 | 708-982-5010 | 708-982-0823 |
| U.S. Robotics | | \$ | \$ | | | |
| Ven-Tel | EC144FAX 14.4k V.32bis | \$329 | \$215 | 408-922-0988 | 408-436-7400 | 408-436-7451 |
| Zoom Telephonics | VFX 28.8 External V.FC/V.32 | \$269 | \$159 | 617-423-3733 | 617-423-1072 | 617-423-9231 |
| Zoom Telephonics | VFX 24k External V.FC/V.32bis | \$229 | \$130 | 617-423-3733 | 617-423-1072 | 617-423-9231 |
| ZyXEL | U-1496RE+/19.2 Rackmount | \$499 | \$349 | 714-693-0762 | 714-693-0804 | 714-693-0705 |
| ZyXEL | U-1496RE/16.8 Rackmount | \$499 | \$349 | 714-693-0762 | 714-693-0804 | 714-693-0705 |
| ZyXEL | U-1496E+/19.2k V.32bis | \$499 | \$349 | 714-693-0762 | 714-693-0804 | 714-693-0705 |
| ZyXEL | RS-1602E Rack Chassis | \$799 | \$499 | 714-693-0762 | 714-693-0804 | 714-693-0705 |

The above quoted prices are for purchases by qualified Sysops only. Public purchases are retail prices, and are not available through Boardwatch Magazine.

RoboBOARD

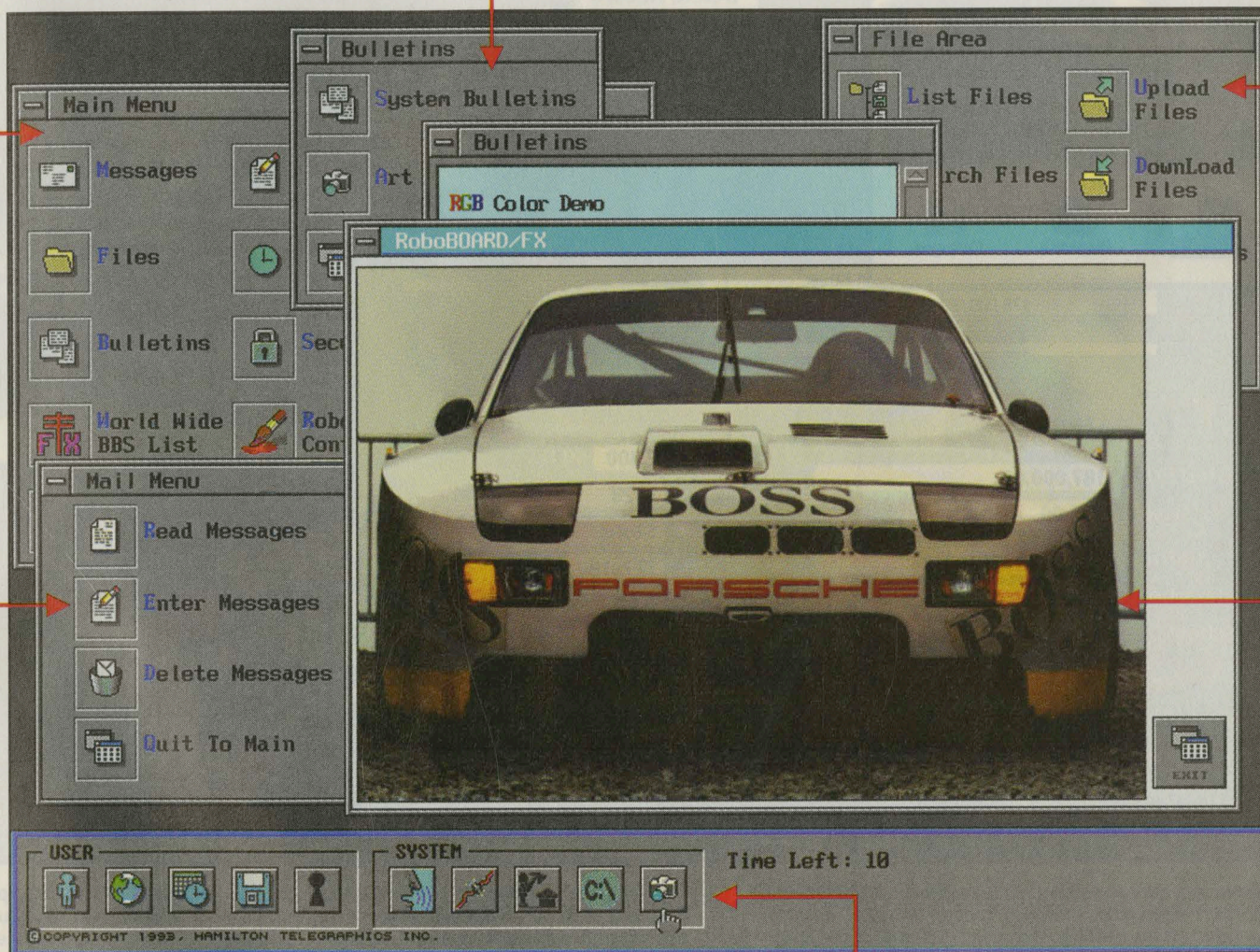


Graphical Communications Software for DOS

The RoboBOARD programmable menu structure allows for a high degree of flexibility in the appearance and the design of your Online system.

Photo images, text, and drawing commands are used to create visually powerful system bulletins!

Lightning fast database file system, powerful wildcard and text searches, realtime Gif image previews and seamless CD-Rom support make RoboBOARD the system of choice for any image orientated Online system.



Email areas can be configured as Local, Echo, USENET or Internet. Users are presented with an easy to use text editor to do Online messaging. Messages can be quoted, uploaded, downloaded and printed while Online.

RoboBOARD can display 640x480x16 VGA to 1024x768x256 SVGA graphics on both the SysOp's and the Caller's end of the connection! Click on the buttons to edit user settings, chat, and even capture screens in GIF format. UART, Fossil and DigiBoard support included!

Realtime JPEG photo images are typically transmitted in 5 to 20 seconds at 14,400 baud and are scaled in realtime to 256 or 16 colors depending on the callers video display adaptor. This insures the highest quality images possible for all callers.



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MEDIABASE™

Online Database Software

Online Database

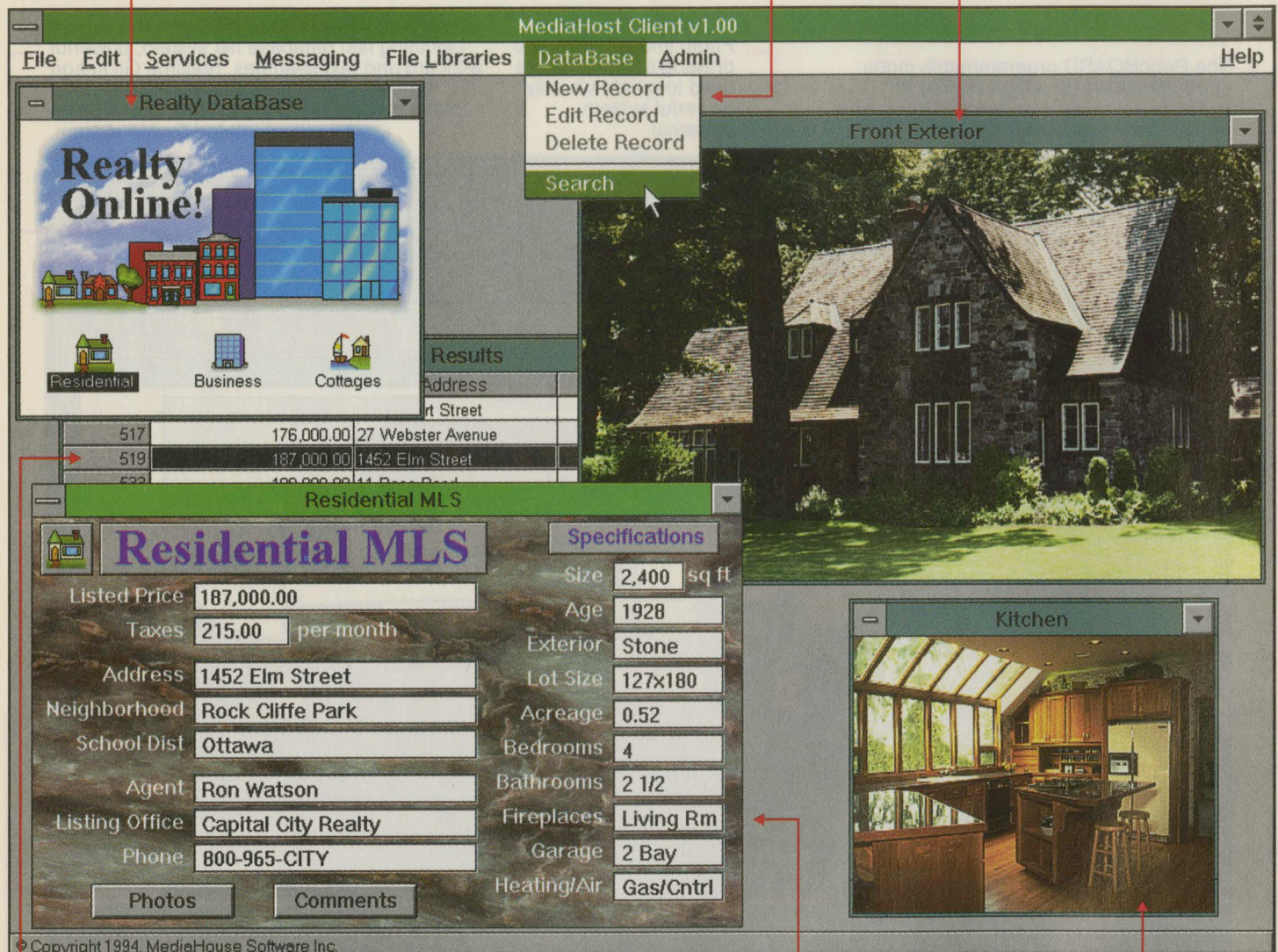
24 bit Photos

Remote Access

Custom database menus are easily created in the MediaHost Designer and Icon Editor. The MediaHost system supports 16 and 256 color icons.

Pulldown menus allow users to quickly perform powerful database queries. Pulldowns can be customized in the MediaHost system to suit your application. The Admin pulldown is only displayed to users having system administrator access.

Images are sent seamlessly in the background using the MediaHost bidirectional protocol leaving users to interact with data already on their desktop.



Databases and query results are displayed in a spreadsheet format which offers quick browsing through records. Like any other window on the desktop, they can be closed or reduced and put out of the way until they are required later in a session.

Custom templates can be created in the MediaHost Designer to display database records. MediaBase will integrate with most database software. You decide what fields in the database your clients can view.

MediaBase offers support for multiple high quality 24 bit images, for each record in the database.

MEDIABASE for Windows



MediaHouse Software Inc.
P.O. Box 633, Aylmer, Quebec, J9H 6L1



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Demo System 819-682-3330

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MediaBase provides a powerful and natural interface for your online database application. Database queries are displayed in a spreadsheet format, just double click on the entries to view photos and information pertaining to that record. A powerful query engine lets your clients quickly find the information they are looking for by defining their search criteria. Photos and data are sent seamlessly in the background while your clients interact with data already on their desktop. Whether you are setting up a Real Estate, Contacts, Tourism, Shopping, Customer support, Inventory or any other type of database across a network or from a remote location MediaBase offers the right interface for your application.

Email

Groupware

Remote Access

MEDIAHOST™

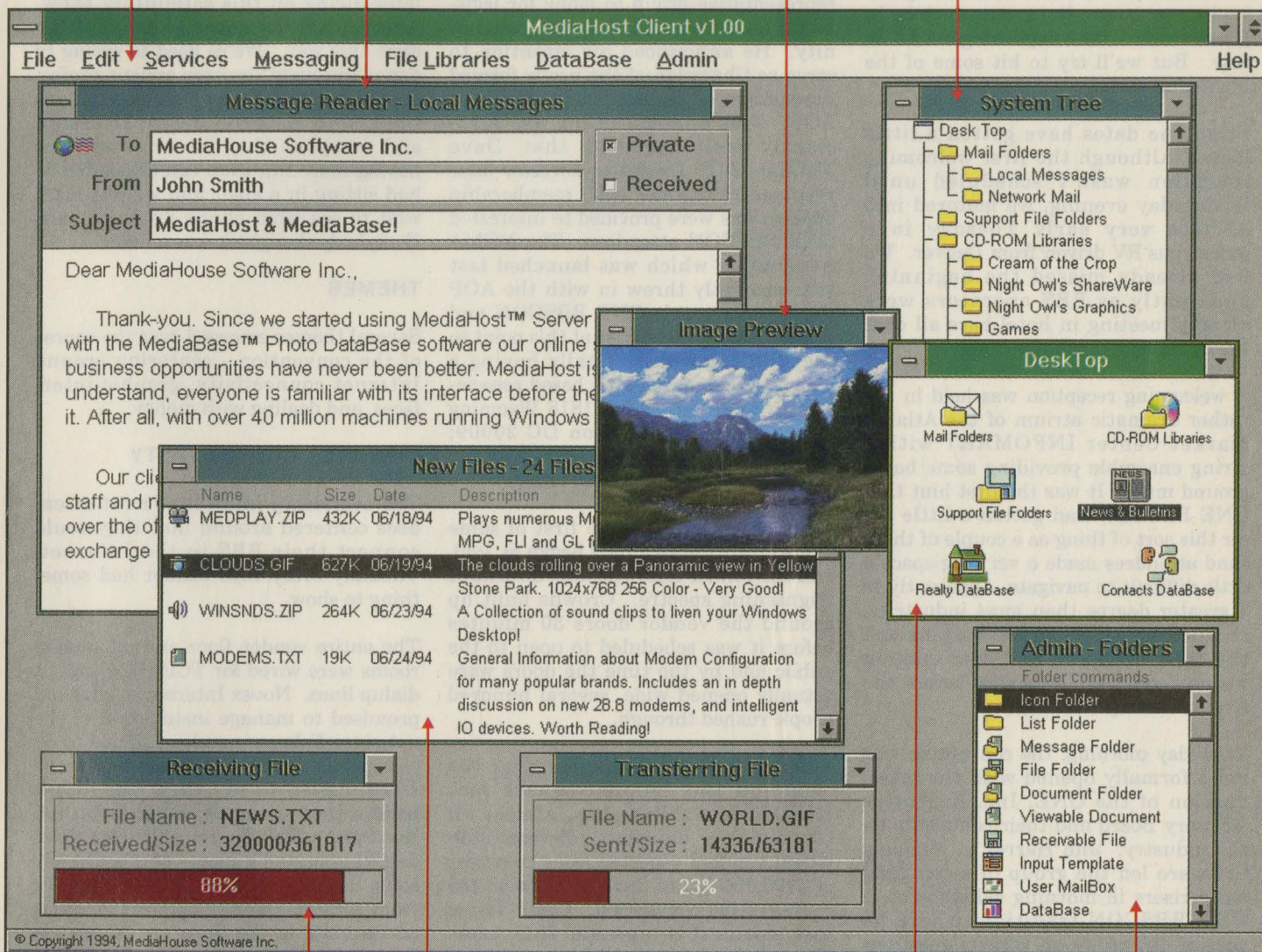
Professional Connectivity Software

Pulldown menus are easily customized to suit your application or language.

E-MAIL - Private and public message areas, user mail boxes, and file attachments all in an easy to use word processor style editor.

Users can preview graphic images from CD-ROM, hard drive or any other mountable volume.

Users can quickly navigate between e-mail, file, bulletin and database folders using a natural System Tree.



Upload and download concurrently while maintaining full use of system features such as chat, messaging and files.

File areas support seamless CD-ROM imports and multi-line descriptions. Users can preview graphics and read text files.

Menus, templates and screens can be customized easily to suit your application requirements using the MediaHost Designer and MediaHost Icon Editor.

Drag and drop administration and design whether you are connected locally, on a network or calling from remote.

MediaHost blends e-mail, conferencing, and popular BBS functions together to create an Online System that goes far beyond the capabilities of conventional mail and BBS packages. MediaHost can be accessed equally as well from remote, locally or across a network allowing you to use it for internal mail, work-group communication, resource sharing or as a dial-in system. MediaHost uses an advanced bidirectional packet protocol for it's multi-tasking Client/Server that allows users to fully interact with the system and conference with other users concurrently.

Online services with

- E-Mail
- Conferencing
- Photo Images
- Video
- File Transfers
- Remote Access
- Network Operation



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ONE BBSCON ATLANTA YOU HAD TO BE THERE

The Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention did in fact occur at the predicted time, August 17-21, at the predicted city, Atlanta Georgia - apparently for about 4,000 paying online communications aficionados. The industry developed sufficiently during these four days that it's unlikely we'll do much damage in trying to cover it in one article in Boardwatch. Those days are gone we do fear. But we'll try to hit some of the highlights here.

First, the dates have gotten a little loose. Although the first welcoming reception wasn't scheduled until Wednesday evening, we motored into Atlanta very early Tuesday in a monstrous RV driven from Denver. We had already missed the beginning apparently as BBS operators were already meeting in hotel bars all over the immediate downtown area.

A welcoming reception was held in the rather dramatic atrium of the Atlanta Market Center INFOMART with a string ensemble providing some background music. It was the first hint that ONE BBSCON had gotten a little big for this sort of thing as a couple of thousand attendees made a very big space a little difficult to navigate. Apparently to a greater degree than most industries, this one knows about networking and the card swapping and deal making were pretty well underway before the food was really rolled out.

Thursday morning, the convention was more formally opened with the introduction of the ONE, Inc. Executive Advisory Board and their comments on the industry. Jim Harrer of Mustang Software led the group of some 2100 early risers in morning calisthenics, a ONE BBSCON tradition, where he surveys the crowd on various questions to get a rough idea of who they are, what kind of services they operate, and so forth. One of the highlights was a kind of backwards survey of who had first gone online with their BBS in 1994, 1993, 1992, etc. with part of the crowd sitting down as each year rolled back. Ultimately, one was left standing in the spotlight - Ward Christensen, author of CBBS and XMODEM and widely considered the father of the BBS. It was a moving moment.

Phil Becker then unleashed a presentation that included a laser light show using the equivalent equipment and production of most planetariums that

actually did leave most of the attendees gasping for air. It ran nearly 30 minutes and provided essentially a "state of the BBS community" summary - but with smoke, mirrors, and lasers to the point that you again had to be there.

He then introduced the keynote speaker, Dennis C. Hayes, of Hayes Microcomputing Products, Inc., who delivered a 45 minute address on the BBS community, and the need for a representative group to lobby for legislation on behalf of the online community. He announced his intention to serve as Chairman of the newly formed Association of Online Professionals or AOP. This announcement was sufficiently well received that Dave McClure, AOP Executive Director later reported that some 1500 membership applications were provided to interested ONE BBSCON attendees. The NOMA Association which was launched last year promptly threw in with the AOP during this year's ONE BBSCON and there seems little barrier at this point to the BBS community finally having a serious, Washington D.C. based association to represent them (1818 Wyoming Avenue NW, Washington DC 20009; (202)265-1266 voice; (202)265-7308 fax; Internet 70631.266@compuserve.com)

Thursday afternoon, the first of some 172 educational seminars began at 1:30, and the vendor floor opened - an almost frightening spectre. Crowds built up around the vendor doors 30 minutes before it was scheduled to open to the public and by the time the doors were actually opened wide, several hundred people rushed through.

Some 150 vendors displayed at the event on the 100,000 square foot INFORUM exhibit area, almost all offering show discounts. Several individual vendors reported sales in excess of \$100,000 out of their booths over the course of the convention. Booth design was noticeably upscale this year. Vendors had apparently learned from the two previous ONE BBSCON's and brought some very attractive designs to the show. The result was a floor that looked very much like COMDEX with an attitude.

Planet Connect has done well with their satellite delivery of data services such as USENET Newsgroups, Fidonet Echomail, Files, Weather info, etc. And they did have a fairly enormous 20X20 booth with a lot of traffic from those wanting to make the sky-side connection. But in recent months, they've started a kind of grass roots television network delivered by satellite as well.

Joe Overholt and Johnny Green do about an hour on BBSs and online services each month. And according to Overholt, they've actually had to start mailing videocassettes out in a kind of subscription service for it due to the demand from operators who don't even have the satellite service. So at the show, they also had set up a lit interview stage, a tv control room, and were grabbing people out of the aisles to interview them on various topics for later airing on this satellite tv show. And you've just never seen television done this way. We're used to seeing tv done "seriously" by very serious professionals who are very "serious" about their work. Clearly, Green, Overholt, and everyone they interviewed were having more fun than can otherwise be had sitting in a chair and we just can't wait to see what shows up on the air. Everybody thought it was a hoot.

THEMES

Several themes emerged over the course of the convention - centering around Internet connectivity, graphic interfaces, and dealing with money.

INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

The overriding interest of most attendees centered around how they could connect their BBS to the Internet. Virtually every BBS vendor had something to show.

The entire vendor floor and all session rooms were wired for TCP/IP as well as dialup lines. Novex Interserve, who had promised to manage installation of the net since February and continued to do so right up until ONE WEEK before the show, called to say they just didn't believe they would be coming after all. But Sprint, Phil Becker, J.P. McMillan, Jeff Phillips and a couple of other handy souls literally rolled a TCP/IP network from scratch the day before the show, connected it to the Sprint backbone via T-1, and had it cooking flawlessly the entire event. A bank of twenty PCs were provided on the convention level with both dialup access, using modems contributed by Supra, Hayes, U.S. Robotics, and Practical Peripherals, and TCP/IP and were a big hit with attendees. Attendees were encouraged to direct dial any BBS in the world as they wished. Six 36-inch color monitors allowed other conventioners to view the various bulletin boards accessed. And many attendees used this facility to check on systems back home, check their e-mail, etc.

Brad Clements of Murkworks was showing their series of Novell Netware



Phil Becker of eSoft addresses ONE BBSCON in Atlanta



Loadable Modules for telnet, ftp, smtp, gopher, and more that work with any LANable BBS that supports a fossil driver interface. PCBoard, Wildcat, and Searchlight BBS operators crowded this display with some enthusiasm.

Dave Hughes, both the Sr. and Jr. version were there with the author of LORA BBS, who came all the way from Italy, demonstrating LORA on OS/2 with TCP/IP access.

Russell Frye was on hand with the PowerBBS package which was designed to run under Microsoft Windows. They had artfully plugged PowerBBS into the shareware Trumpet WINSOCK allowing BBS callers access to the Internet, and Internauts access to the BBS.

A new BBS package, TSX BBS claimed multiline support and TCP/IP connectivity and stirred a bit of interest - message base looked very amenable to newsgroups and e-mail.

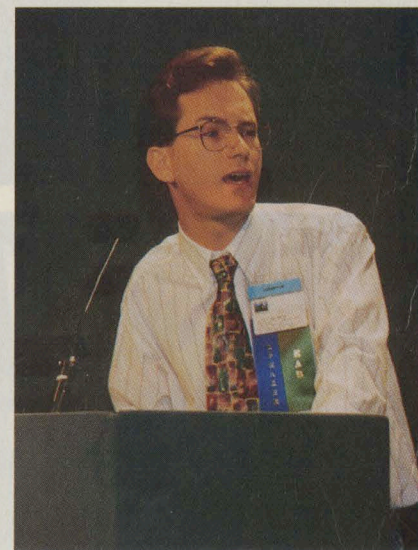
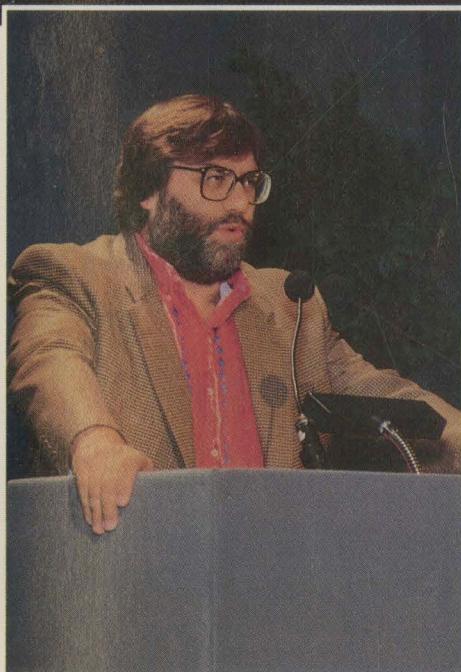
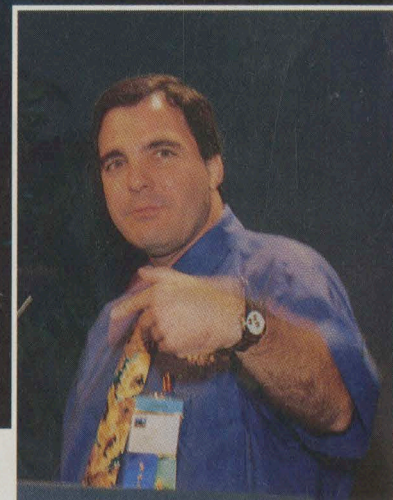
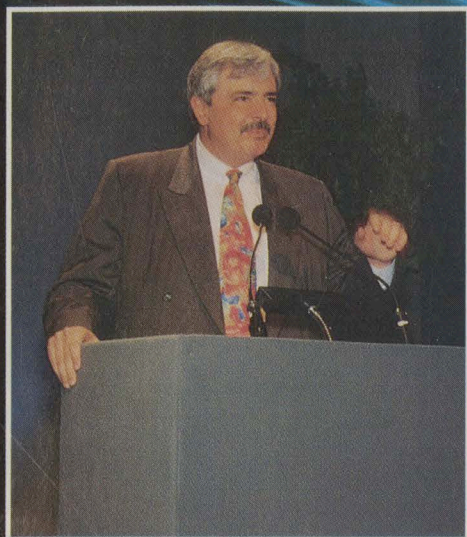
Galacticomm showed their Internet Connectivity Option which incorporates a TCP/IP stack right on the BBS platform to measurable enthusiasm from Major BBS operators.

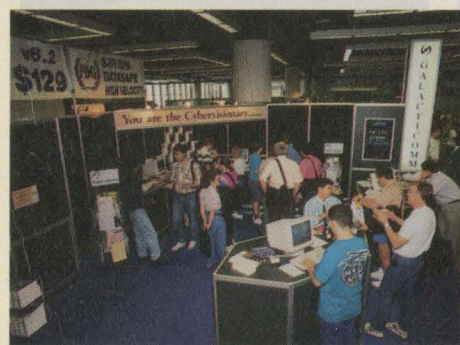
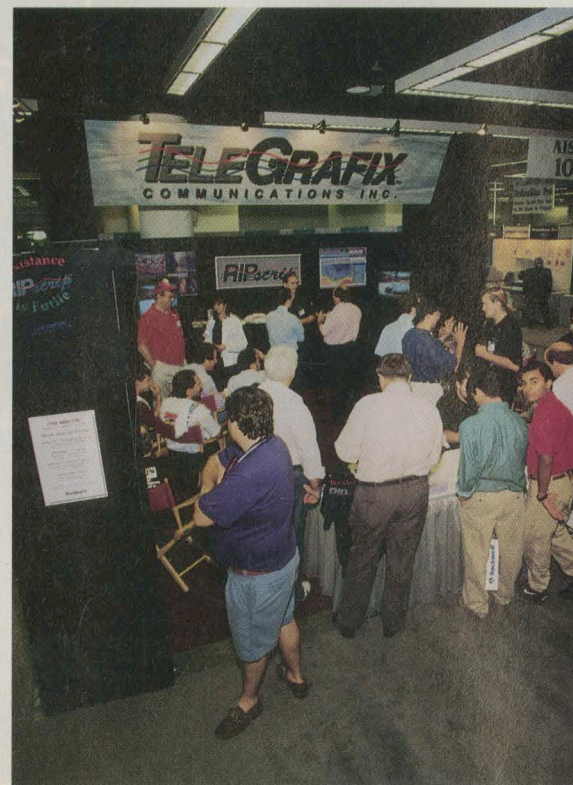
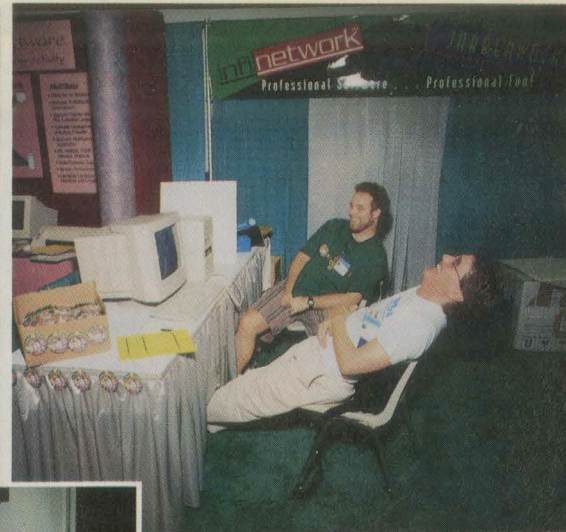
Bill McCauley of Lawrence Livermore Labs did a bangup session on how to shop for telephone services such as T-1 and 56 kbps sessions. Mark Graham of Pandora Systems headed up the Internet track and despite several last minute speaker cancellations managed and spoke himself at some of the most heavily attended sessions of the event.

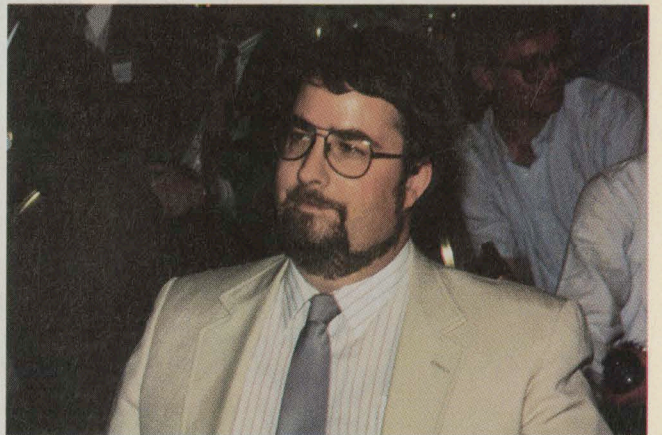
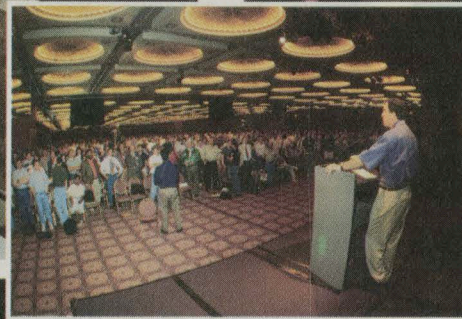
The big event here was Phil Becker's session on eSoft's Internet Protocol Adapter or IPAD. The 90 minute session went beyond the sales pitch level providing a pretty thorough overview of Internet architecture, how things were normally accomplished, the different strategies employed to connect hundreds of BBSs already using terminal adapters, UNIX systems, etc. They then described the selection process used to put the "important" parts of all that in one hardware/software box they call the Internet Protocol Adapter that combines the functions of a Cisco Router, Domain Name Server, FTP server, Telnet server, SMTP server, NNTP server, and more into a complete solution for connecting bulletin boards to the network. The demonstration consisted mostly of TCP/IP connected laptops using Xircom pocket ethernet adapters. And when Alan Bryant telnetted to the eSoft demo

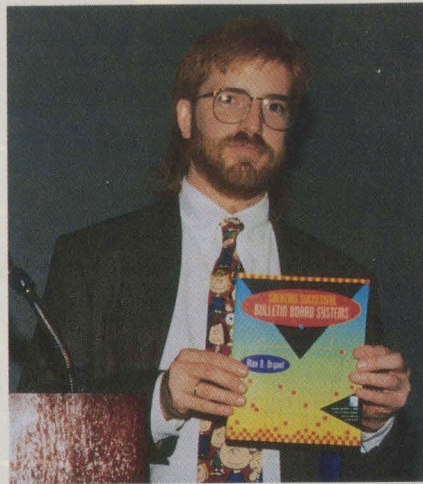
system using Mustang Software's Qmodem, and accessed a RIP graphics database with GIF images that automatically displayed on download, the nearly 500 attendees to this session felt the world change. The session closed to a standing ovation. You will hear more about IPAD in coming months - probably one of the most significant developments at the convention.

The other aspect of Internet connectivity was the early dawning awareness among some of the Internet-centric vendors who ventured to ONE BBSCON for the first time, and indeed seemed unfamiliar at first with BBS capabilities. Sprint provided the actual link for the show, and did have a booth there, but seemed surprised by the interest. NetManage, developers of the very popular Chameleon TCP/IP product, and a Dvorak Award winner at the banquet Saturday evening, displayed their product with IP connectivity from their booth. But many attendees used the demonstration as an opportunity to telnet to THEIR bulletin boards on the network and check their e-mail. The Netmanage guys nearly blew a gasket. "We had no idea this number of bulletin boards were already on the Internet for IP."









GADGETS & Gizmology

Xircom Pocket Ethernet Print Server

by Gary W Funk
Gizmologist

I like toys. Not the kind you find at Toys R Us, but the kind you find in electronics and computer stores. The kind that don't do much unless you connect them to something, like, another toy. Actually, I like gizmos and gadgets. This month, I kick off a new column those gizmos and gadgets that make computing a little more interesting, and I hope, more fun.

Doing a print magazine requires it be printed on paper. And that paper is what you see each month on the newsstand and in your mailbox. What you don't see is the paper that comes out of the HP 4M. Page after page, article after article, revision after revision. With three computers in the art department using that same laser printer, there is a lot of idle time waiting for pages to print.

The need for a second, faster printer was evident and Jack suggested the HP 4SiMX. Since I like to order stuff, I did, and boy is it big. The best part is that it has a 10Base-T ethernet adapter built in and plugs right into our network just like a workstation. This means no parallel cable running from the file server. Now, the art department has a new printer to replace the little HP 4M, and the parallel cable running from the server has to be moved.

Or does it? Sometime in July, a box sent by Xircom arrived that contained a cute little gadget called a Pocket Ethernet Print Server. I opened the box and took it out, looked at it, played with it, read the manual that told me what it does, and placed it on a table. I wasn't sure what was going to be done with it, but I knew it was a good thing to have. It sat there on that table for about four weeks and little did I know just how good it was to have it. I didn't want to move the parallel cable, and there are ethernet jacks in every wall

in the office. This was the moment I was waiting for.

I had a printer, I had a 10Base-T jack, and I had a gadget. All that had to be done was put them all together. This turned out to be the easy part as there are really only three steps. Attach the print server to the printer, run the setup software, and look busy for two hours so the boss thinks you're really good with hardware. Installation, start to finish, actually took less than ten minutes.

The Xircom Pocket Ethernet Print Server Iips supports Novell NetWare versions 2.1x to present, Microsoft LAN Manager, Microsoft Windows NT, and IBM LAN Server. And for Unix, it supports TCP/IP. The Iips connects directly to the printer's parallel port, works with any parallel printer, and transfers data to the printer at speeds up to 600 Kbps. It has both 10Base-2 and 10Base-T and knows which to use, and if it should ever lose the network connection, will automatically reattach to the file server.

Menu-driven setup software makes it a pleasure to install and the step-by-step

instructions are easy to follow. Two LEDs provide basic indications as to the operation of the Iips. Software upgrades to the firmware are quick and easy through the use of Flash memory. The package includes the Iips, AC power adapter, BNC T Connector (for 10Base-2), User's Guide, registration card, and two 3.5-inch setup disks.

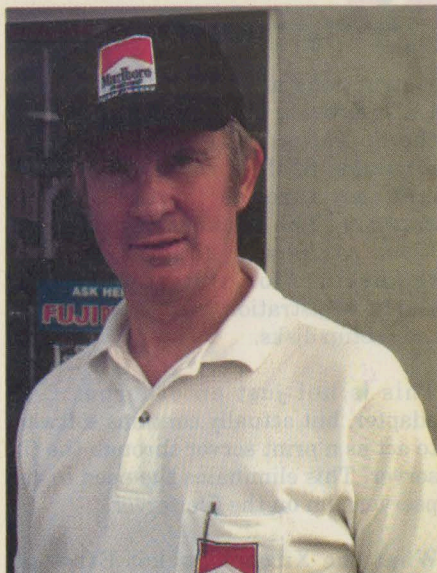
This is not just an ethernet LAN adapter, but actually contains software to act as a print server through the file server. This eliminates the need to run pserver.nlm on the file server.

What the Xircom Pocket Ethernet Adapter III does for laptops, the Xircom Pocket Ethernet Print Server Iips does for printers. With the Iips, you can place a shared printer anywhere on your LAN. At a suggested retail price of \$599 this little gadget is pricey, but is cheaper than most print servers, and connecting a printer to a network has never been easier or, more fun. Xircom Corporate, 26025 Mureau Road, Calabasas, California 91302; (818)878-7600 voice; (818)878-7360 fax; (818)878-7618 BBS; Internet: cs@xircom.com; CompuServe: GO XIRCOM



XIRCOM Pocket Ethernet Print Server II

SEEKING THE ULTIMATE GRAPHICS MACHINE



By Jim Thompson
Western News Service

If you are going to use photo images in your online system, you will need a powerful computer to prepare and manipulate those images. Sure, that old 286 still has some life in it, but you can forget about using it for any serious imaging applications.

So what do you need? I decided to go on a hunt for the "ultimate graphics computer." Since I wanted to make this as close to real-life as possible, I decided the machine should deliver the best in technology, but still remain in a price range that is reasonable. I also wanted to find a machine that is available "off-the-shelf" not one that would have to be custom built with hard-to-find parts.

I first started looking for this "ultimate" machine, several months ago. At that time, the Pentium-60 machines were the hottest talk in the industry. The performance from these machines is so far superior to the 486, it was clear that this was the processor that would have to form the base platform for my "ultimate."

After searching stacks of literature and scanning all the major computer magazines on the market, it appeared that the Gateway 2000 P5-60 Pentium offered the best in the price/performance derby. I am not saying this was the fastest or best machine, but it did appear to offer the best features for the best relative price. The strong user

support offered by Gateway was another factor in their favor.

I talked with some very pleasant folks at Gateway. After explaining my mission, they agreed to let me use a P5-60 for a limited time so I could complete my review. A couple of months passed before I called again to inquire about the machine. Again, they were most pleasant. This time they said they could send a P5-60 out to me right away or I could wait a couple more weeks and look at the new P5-66 machine.

I'm no fool. I quickly said that I would be willing to wait for the newer and faster machine. When I had not received the machine after about three weeks, I called again. This time, I was told that the very next day, Gateway was announcing their new P5-90 machine. I was asked if I wanted to wait for this even newer model.

I was sure the speed difference would be dramatic between the 66 MHz and 90 MHz machines, so again, I agreed to wait a little longer. This time, I was convinced the wait was well worth it.

Within a few weeks the machine, all three black and white cow-spotted boxes, arrived at my door. I opened the box to find not the P5-90 I had expected, but a new P5-66. Not the fastest of the machines on the market, but certainly powerful enough for a graphics platform.

I pass on this story not because I was frustrated, but to illustrate just how fast things are changing in the world of computers. The performance envelope is being pushed farther and farther as newer and faster chips are introduced. We have seen the demise of the 8088, the 286 and the 386. With the advent of the Pentium processors, the death of the 486 is now inevitable.

What we are seeing is an entirely new kind of

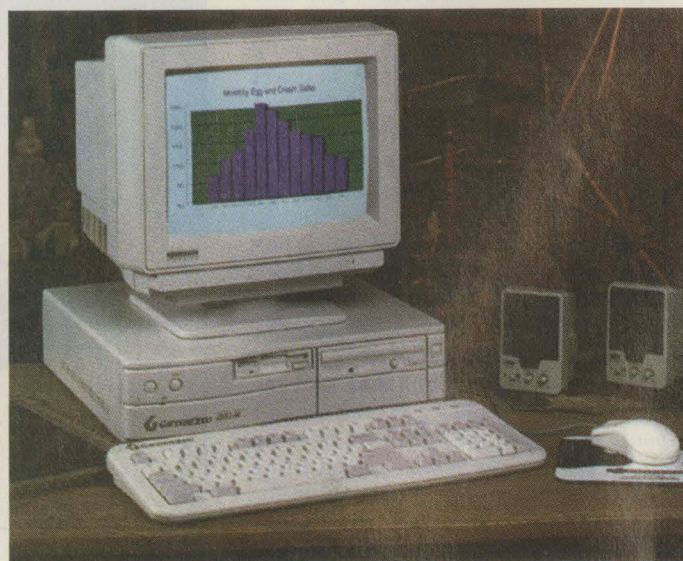
chip. The original 486 ran at 25 MHz, and later 33 MHz both internally and externally as Intel moved the floating-point processor. Chips such as these can no longer compete in the CPU speed derby. The race now belongs to the new multiplier chips. Such chips run at higher speeds internally than they do externally or when communicating with the PC's bus. This has lead to chip doubling, like the 486DX2, and even tripling.

Just last year, the DX2 was about the fastest machine you could find. Today, many find these processors too slow for tasks such as working with large graphics files.

The 90 MHz Pentiums are becoming common. The 100 MHz machines are starting to show-up and the 150 MHz and 200 MHz machines may soon be coming to a computer store near you.

The switch to the faster machines is not only inevitable, but obvious. A DX2/66 machine is about five times faster than a 386/25-MHz and a Pentium 60 is about twice as fast as the DX2/66.

The Gateway P5-66 does offer some impressive performance scores (See BENCHMARKS) and for most graphics work, especially considering the bargains that can be found, this is an excellent choice. However, if you can afford it, I strongly suggest going with a 90 MHz, 100 MHz CPU or even faster, if available. These "second generation" chips are capable of shutting down



Gateway 2000 P5-66

entire areas of the chip, such as the floating-point unit, when not in use.

You should also look for a PCI local bus design which significantly raises throughput levels. PCI (which stands for Peripheral Component Interconnect) local bus was designed for the Pentium and supports a 64-bit data path.

The VL-Bus provides throughputs of up to 267-MBps at a speed of 50 MHz while the newer PCI can push data at up to 264 MBps at 33 MHz. Compare this to the old ISA bus which provides a maximum performance of only 8 MBps while running at only 8 MHz. Even the EISA can only deliver a throughput of up to 33 MBps.

The Gateway has a PCI local bus design on all its Pentium equipped machines. The 66 MHz comes standard with 8MB of RAM, but, for graphics work you will definitely need more. The machine I looked at was loaded with 32MB of RAM. Of course, you could get-by with less memory, but there is really no percentage.

When working with graphics, the "rule-of-thumb" is that the memory should be at least three times larger than the image you will be working with. So, a 5MB image will require at least 16MB of RAM. With 32MB you can work with a 5MB file under Windows and still have several other applications loaded at the same time. Also, remember that programs are not getting smaller and operating systems (like Windows/NT) are so bloated with "extras" that it takes a shoehorn to install them onto most machines. Additionally, you will need to use some of this memory for software cache.

Still, if price is a major concern, 16MB will do the job. The Gateway also includes 256KB of write-back external processor cache. This provides a noticeable increase in speed, but I would suggest doubling this amount. With 512KB of cache you will not likely be slowed down with data processing bottlenecks.

The next most important element in our "ultimate" machine is the hard disk. This is where the Gateway P5-66 lacks. It comes standard with a 520MB IDE hard drive (See BENCHMARKS for performance). While this is an excellent drive and works well with the overall system, I would suggest a larger, SCSI drive.

In most single-user environments running Windows under DOS, an enhanced IDE drive will actually provide

| B E N C H M A R K S | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| SYSTEMS | Handbook 486SX-25 | HandBook 486DX2-40 | HandBook 486DX2-50 | ColorBook 486SX-33 | ColorBook 486DX2-40 | ColorBook 486DX2-50 | ColorBook 486DX4-75 |
| ZDLabs PC Bench Version 8.0 | | | | | | | |
| DOSMark | 2400 | 26374 | 337.54 | 347.31 | 334.58 | 397.98 | 44.77 |
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| Video Harmonic | 710.59 | 195.76 | 726.77 | 1246.66 | 1783.31 | 1906.53 | 1912.32 |
| Disk Harmonic | 521.00 | 547.00 | 815.00 | 710.00 | 654.00 | 705.00 | 781.00 |
| Coretest | | | | | | | |
| 64K | 777.20 | 801.60 | 1076.50 | 973.00 | 774.50 | 1081.70 | 1255.50 |
| 32K | 653.50 | 998.20 | 1087.30 | 1399.50 | 926.20 | 1461.70 | 1462.00 |
| Power Meter 1.8 | | | | | | | |
| Sieve Test | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 |
| Whetstones | 146.90 | 3873.00 | 4874.70 | 197.30 | 5047.00 | 5047.00 | 6988.20 |
| Dhrystones | 14.20 | 17.50 | 25.00 | 19.10 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 29.70 |
| MIPSTest | 8.10 | 10.00 | 14.20 | 10.90 | 11.40 | 14.20 | 16.90 |

better performance than a SCSI drive. But the trend is to what eventually will be a SCSI standard. A SCSI drive provides much larger capacities along with excellent performance. A SCSI-2 drive with approximately 2MB of cache will push data speeds to the maximum. The SCSI interface will also allow you to attach up to seven devices, such as a CD ROM drive and a tape drive, to your system.

Next comes the video card and display. The Gateway comes standard with a 24-bit PCI local bus video adapter with 2-MB of RAM which will provide excellent performance for most applications. For high end performance, I suggest the optional Diamond Viper VLB Video card with 2-MB of VRAM. This is one of the fastest cards on the market when it comes to Windows applications.

Specifically designed to take advantage of the 32-bit VESA local-bus architecture, the Viper produces 59-60 million Winmarks by off-loading graphics processing from the computer to the video card. The Viper VLB displays over 16 million colors with a refresh rate of 74Hz at 1280x1024. This is not the best video card on the market, but in the price vs. performance debate, it does provide one of the best deals currently available.

The ultimate card should have a 64-bit graphics accelerator engine. This

provides a 64-bit data path to the VRAM resulting in maximum performance. An on-board 64-bit DAC chip will also improve performance with editing images. A PCI-compatible card can increase overall system performance by as much as 50-percent.

The Gateway comes with a 15-inch Crystal scan monitor. Its flat screen design is much less distorted than standard monitors. Like most manufacturers, Gateway fudges a bit on the actual viewing area of the screen. The 15-inch size actually refers to the size of the tube, not the actual viewing area. The result is that you are really getting about 13-inches of viewing area. For this reason, I suggest popping for the extra bucks and going for at least a 17-inch monitor. Serious users may want to go for a 19 or 20 inch monitor, but remember that this larger monitor is much bigger and heavier.

The Gateway CrystalScan 1572FS is multi-scanning which means it can accept signals from any frequency within its rated bandwidth, proving a great deal of flexibility. It can deliver up to 1024x768 non-interlaced resolution, up to 1280x1024 resolution in interlaced mode with 0.26mm dot pitch.

The Gateway also comes with a Mitsumi double speed CD ROM drive (300 KBps) — a must for loading high-end software

packages. The double speed drive should be considered a minimum since 3X, 4X (600 KBps) and even 6X drives are now, or soon will be, available. The Mitsumi is a very acceptable drive and is adequate for most applications.

Included with the Gateway 2000 system is the Anykey Keyboard which allows you to customize any of the 124-keys and to create macros. You will also find Microsoft Windows for Workgroups 3.11, MS-DOS 6.2 and an impressive choice of software options.

CONCLUSIONS

The Gateway 2000 P5-66 offers an excellent compromise between price and performance. Although it does not quite come up to expectations as the ultimate graphics machine, it does offer most of the high-end features needed for working with large graphics files. Gateway is also consistently ranked among the very best when it comes to customer service and support and their prices are among the most competitive when compared to other nationally advertised brands.

The impressive benchmark scores turned in by the 66 MHz machine is a clear indication that the 90 MHz machine is really the machine to have. Since there is only a few hundred dollars difference in price between the 66 and 90 MHz, I strongly suggest going for the faster processor. Add to this at least a 1 GB SCSI hard drive, beef-up the memory to at least 16 MB (32 MB is preferable), add a better video card and you have an excellent system for graphics acquisition and manipulation.

[Jim Thompson is Managing Editor of Western News Service in Los Angeles, California. He also manages the Marlboro Racing News BBS. CompuServe: 72777,2677, MCI Mail: 321-4127, INTERNET: jim.thompson@wnsnews.com]

NOTE: The BENCHMARK test results were provided by Gateway 2000. Independent tests confirmed the accuracy of the results.

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PEOPLE ONLINE

WHEN YOUR MODEM GETS THE MESSAGE "NO ONE'S HOME."



by Phyllis Phlegar

What would you do, if the online service that you belonged to suddenly didn't exist? After months of chatting and exchanging public messages and e-mails, all your online acquaintances were gone. That is exactly what happened to the subscribers of the National Videotext Network, or NVN, when in June, members could no longer log on as usual. There was no notice that the service was shutting down, nothing. One day members tried to log on, and they could not, period. Most people who communicate online don't readily give out home addresses and phone numbers. Many subscribers were completely cut off from their cyber friends.

Within a week, both Prodigy and Delphi had special new areas set up for displaced NVNers who needed a new home and were also looking for their friends. Bulletins that asked, in one way or another, "are you a refugee from NVN...I am looking for <so and so>" also went up on America Online, CompuServe, and GENie.

NVN's demise affected me too; it meant the possibility of losing touch with a group of Barbie doll collectors known as "The Poodley Seven." The Poodley Seven (of which I am a card carrying

member) are "Birdy," "Charla," "Dessy," "HooD," (the final "D" is capitalized), "Hunca," "Mook," and "Rappy."

Wait a minute, Barbie doll collectors? Are these kids, or what? Before you wrinkle up your nose and think this sounds nuts, trust me when I say that there are a lot of grown, capable women who collect Barbie dolls. I confess to being one of them.

Okay, maybe that wasn't the best example. But among the Poodley Seven: a lawyer, a pilot, a manager of a large national chain of software stores, a sales assistant at one of the country's largest companies, and a nurse. Hunca came up with the idea of the world's first live, online all-Barbie cotillion, suggesting that we send each other photos of our dolls dressed for a cotillion, along with a gift, for either the Barbie or the owner. Then, we'd open them while live online in a conference room, giving immediate feedback. We loved the idea, and we began to make plans. Somewhere along the line, Mook's love of poodles slipped into the conversation, and to make a long story short, we became the "Poodley Seven."

Plans were going quite well until without notice, NVN was no longer online. I panicked! What about our cotillion? I had Birdy's address, and sent her a letter immediately, suggesting that we try to get back together on GENie...because I thought at least two of us were already on that service. Birdy called me as soon as she got my snail mail. HooD indeed was on GENie, and Mook was also on Prodigy, so I was in touch with them within 48 hours. They in turn found everyone else, and in the meantime, I began posting notes to the Barbie collectors that I already knew on GENie, warning them of the incoming wave of newbies.

In a few days, three of us were on GENie, and inside of a month, the entire Poodley Seven was back together and the cotillion went on, as scheduled, on Saturday night, August 20th, 1994. "What is a cotillion?" my editor asks. It's an old fashioned dance, usually southern style with the ladies dressed in frilly long gowns with lots of lace, pretty hats and white gloves. The

Poodley Seven, and the "Barbie Gals" of GENie (that's what I'd nicknamed them), dressed their Barbies, took pictures of them, uploaded some as GIFs, and sent actual pictures via snail mail, and party gifts, just as Hunca had suggested months earlier. While live and in conference, some of us did, indeed, open packages containing pictures and the presents sent between them. It sounds silly, but it was great. Of course, some people cheated and opened up their gifts ahead of time!

I had an idea to surprise the Poodley Seven and went down to my local Salvation Army store. This particular branch of the Salvation Army just happens to have a huge vintage clothing section and some great employees with a sense of humor. We picked out some 60s high fashion outfits, I whipped out the eye brow pencil, red lipstick, padded bra and transformed myself in something that might pass for Barbie. I even talked my husband into being Ken. Picture Ken and Barbie in their 40s...that's about how we looked.

In the meantime, GENie suddenly found that one topic called "Barbie Collectors" wasn't enough, and opened a whole new category about Barbies in the Collectibles Roundtable. What used to be a note or two each week, passed between three or four collectors has now grown to some 100 messages posted...every day. (::Squeal:: I am so proud!)

It isn't hard to understand the attraction that grown women (and some men) have about Barbie dolls, especially the original models. She was the first doll of her kind, and there is hardly a woman alive who doesn't remember her first Barbie. She was way ahead of her time, "becoming" an astronaut in 1965. To date, some 775,000,000 Barbies have been sold in over 140 countries. In recognition of the 35th anniversary of Barbie's debut, Mattel has come out with the "35th Anniversary Barbie," looking very similar to that first Barbie. The Poodley Seven refer to this special doll as "the repro."

The Poodley Seven, the original gang on GENie, and new folks who have joined in, are all over the country, and have been giving each other up to the

minute details on what stores have those sought after repros, and how much they are selling for. One locale wants \$50 for a brunette... another \$25. But no one on the board need pay an inflated price, because someone who can get the \$25 dolls will mail it to whoever wants one. Another wonderful advantage of having this national Barbie club is price checking on the vintage Barbies. Vintage Barbies are those with the original haughty, or coy face, with seamless legs, and ponytail, bubble cut, page boy or swirl hair style. Prices can vary by hundreds of dollars, and the few dollars spent each month exchanging prices online more than pays for itself.

The Barbie board is about much more than prices, though...it's a great place for people with a common, enjoyable hobby to just get together and talk about their latest acquisitions, the doll show they attended recently, and how much they still like to "play with" their Barbies. A few people who were not Barbie collectors who were lurking found themselves drawn into the conversation and soon, were out buying the dolls.

One such new collector's tag line is "I don't collect Barbies, I just buy them."



The original 1959 Barbie dressed for the cotillion

In the meantime, the Barbie collectors on GENie have become a support group for any one of us who may be having a tough time with life in general. During the time that the Poodley Seven were out of touch, we all felt the loss. We were lucky that we reconvened so quickly...some people who were stranded by NVN are still looking for each other. (If you'd like to join the Poodley Seven and the Barbie Gals on GENie, log onto the Collecting Roundtable and select category 26.)

[Phyllis Phlegar is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and also holds a private pilot's license. In 1974, she was the first female news anchor for the North Carolina News Network, and most recently worked as a weather anchor on Business Radio Network. She's currently a freelance announcer and her work can still be heard on BRN, National Public Radio and the Armed Forces Radio Network. Phyllis is currently working on several writing projects, including those for Boardwatch Magazine, and Addison Wesley Publishing Company.]

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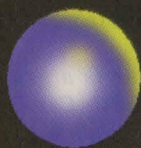
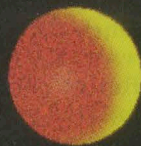
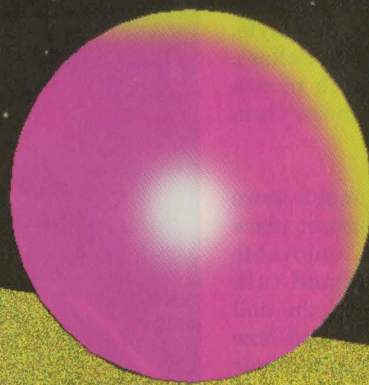
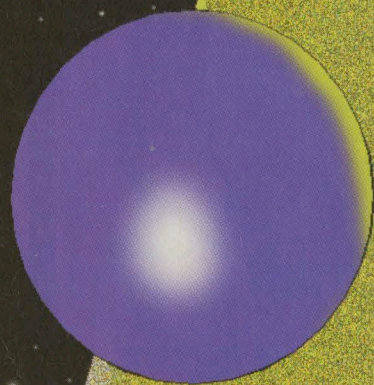
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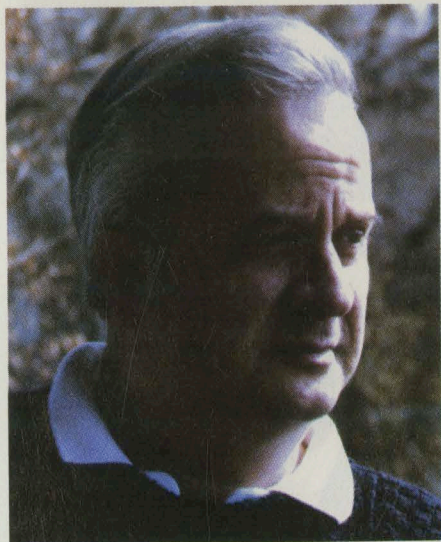
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INTERNETICA



THE RBOCS ARE COMING!



by Gordon Cook

The RBOCs are coming! If you live in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, or Wisconsin you will soon have very direct experience with an unregulated subsidiary of your local telephone company offering total internet services from corporate leased lines to individual dial up accounts. Ameritech Advanced Data Services Network (AADSnet) is already in the midst of a roll out of a series of services. The result will be the first fruit of the National Science Foundation Director Steve Wolff's strategy of "co-opting the telephone companies" into the Internet. (We refer to Wolff's statement to Joe Stroup of what he has been doing published on the net on August 8.)

Ameritech began to get seriously interested in the Internet in the spring of 1993 hiring COOK Network Consultants in April for an intensive two day seminar on the players, policies and politics. By August 17, 1993 they had offered the National Science Foundation a proposal to run the Chicago Network Access Point (NAP) - a clover-leaf interchange for the new Internet architecture in the view of those who liked what NSF was doing or a choke point for those who were suspicious of NSF's motives. By February 9, 1994 it was clear to both us and Ameritech that they were the winner's of the Chicago NAP.

From Mark Knopper's signature on a February 9, 1994 eight page memo we imply that he was hired in early in the year from his management position at

MERIT to run AADSnet. [Reliable sources say that he has since brought with him more than a dozen others from MERIT — MERIT of course being the state of Michigan network consortium that won the 1987 cooperative agreement to supply a backbone to the National Science Foundation.]

The memo stated that AADSnet "is an IP regional network covering the Ameritech five state area and beyond." "Access methods include frame relay, SMDS, private line (DS0, DS1, DS3, ...) ATM (DS3, OC3, ...), dialup PPP, ISDN basic rate." The memo also stated that AADS has submitted a proposal to the NSF to manage the Chicago NAP. It concludes the "AADSnet will be connected to the Chicago NAP." Under the heading "Routing Plan" it states that "customers are physically connected to an Ameritech 'LATAnet' providing access to the Internet" and "Network Service Providers act as Inter-Exchange carriers to carry IP traffic between the LATAnets. The network provides access in each LATA to multiple Internetwork service providers. AADS customers have their choice of primary and back up long haul providers."

These last quoted sentences are very critical for Ameritech is still prohibited from doing cross LATA traffic in voice or data. Therefore it needs to involve someone in an IXC function. Some whom we have talked to assume that this means a deal with Sprint and AT&T or MCI. Others are saying that it could mean some kind of arrangement with the regional networks in the area or even with the smaller service providers. It leaves ambiguous whether the NSPs acting as Inter-Exchange carriers are precisely the same as "back up long haul providers." Certainly if Ameritech follows regulatory policy with AADSnet and pays third party cross LATA carriers it is difficult to see how their service could compete effectively with private NSPs. This is a critical area in evaluating the new service and one which receives no further elaboration in Knopper's July 19 memo.

IS AADSNET OR AMERITECH SUBJECT TO ANY REGULATORY CONSTRAINTS?

In a discussion on the Meta Network a source asked us: "Is it your contention that Ameritech (for example) will be selling its own subsidiary (the group that sells shell service) NAP transit

services at a price below what they charge to other access providers? There's something in this industry called imputation, which basically says that if a telephone company is selling both a wholesale and a retail service, the retail price must include an imputed cost equivalent to the wholesale price charged other carriers. In other words, we're not allowed to undercharge our retail customers and overcharge our wholesale customers. Just not allowed."

Taking on the broader question of Ameritech's size and economic muscle being able to allow unfair competition within the general Ameritech service area, a network operator located in their service area told us AADSnet as the unregulated subsidiary would be buying its circuits from Ameritech which would be selling them as a regulated telephone company. He stated he was therefore certain Ameritech could not legally sell AADSnet a leased line any more cheaply than it could to any other commercial competitor.

But the earlier source offered a differing opinion saying "imputation is a regulatory mandate in most cases, and of course AADS is an unregulated subsidiary of Ameritech, so there may not be any legal/regulatory reasons why imputation applies in this case. Of course, if it doesn't, I would suspect that there might be issues of what constitutes unfair competition, etc., but those are even thornier issues."

He added that "Ameritech apparently will be offering dial-up usage sensitive billing accounts for individual users with SLIP/PPP accounts. No mention about inter LATA transport costs. Also, although the blurb says that they will establish local call access to their network 'as local demand warrants,' there is no indication where their POPs will be initially."

"As far as their [Ameritech's] Phase I and Phase II services (PPP and "internet in a box"), I don't see anything there that should worry Karl Denninger or the other providers overly much. My guess is that there will be a relatively low usage level at which our "usage sensitive" pricing becomes less economical than Karl's untimed service. Particularly since Karl has been very aggressive about spotting POPs to permit local calling from much of the Chicago metro area (five open now, and I hear rumors that three more are in the mill)."

Full Text Searching

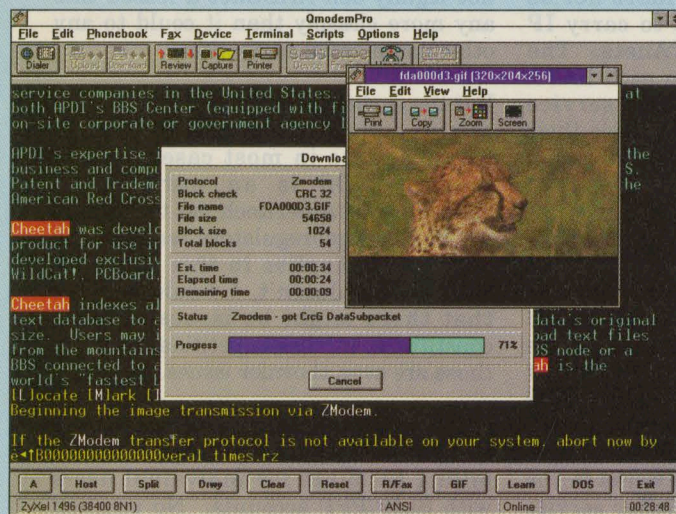
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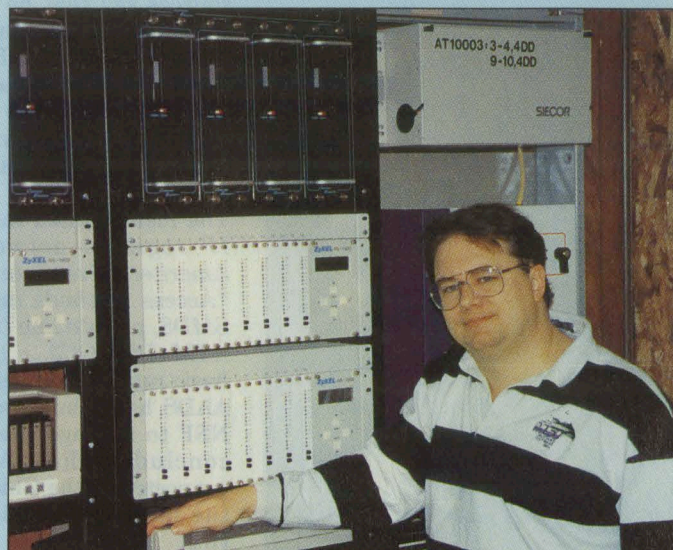
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Mark Burnett at APDI's BBS Service Bureau

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When Knopper was asked whether imputation would apply to NAP pricing he replied: "for now the services they are offering are rated just by pipe size and shape (Frame Relay vs. SMDS) and there is no issue about whether the customer is an end user or a reseller." He also said that the NAP is "just an ATM system with a small number of customers" and that there wasn't much of an issue of wholesale vs. retail there. We think this sounds like a lot of waffling. We also think that Karl Denninger and Joe Stroup, the implementers of Net-99 will be pretty good at nailing any real waffling that Ameritech engages in.

Consider the following: On August 21 Joe Stroup wrote to the Net-99 list, "Read carefully. Ameritech is dealing in an area that they have 'self declared' to be un-regulated. I do not share that opinion. This is no different than some of the legal battles MCI, Sprint and AT&T have had over a difference of opinion on their business operations. Starting even a small Network is an expensive proposal. Anyone who thinks they can do better will most likely get my support. With that said, AADS needs to be careful about how it runs its business. From the way its gets circuits, hardware, and internal Ameritech support. If I find a sharing or even the smallest hint of the regulated company providing any favors to AADS, I will promise legal action. AADS, if they are really on their own, should be paying the same rates for circuits as Karl and I. No deferred billing, no special install deals, nothing. Right down to the usage of local dialup lines, packet interconnects etc. If they want to enter as a self declared provider and operate unopposed that's fine. Just so they play by the rules."

THE AADSNET JULY 19 MEMO

It appears that AADS is offering an entire series of internet local loop services and that for these services to get off the ground AADSnet will have to have the cooperation of regular internet service providers against whom AADSnet is competing. Consider the description of phase zero services (July - Sept. 94) available in all 5 LATAs of Michigan, Columbus Dayton and Cleveland Ohio, Milwaukee, Indianapolis and Chicago. "AADSnet Direct IP Connectivity will connect a customer site to the Internet using a Frame Relay or Switched Multimegabit Data Service (SMDS) access at the data link layer. One router for each participating IP-IXC [i.e. competing network service provider] for a LATA will be installed by AADS and located at the AADS

switch site to allow routing of IP traffic external to the LATA." Another Ameritech document faxed to us with the July 19 memo states: "a unique feature of Ameritech's Internet Service allows the customer to choose how their traffic is routed to the global Internet by selecting from a variety of Internet Providers. Most regional Internet Providers derive their internet connectivity to the global Internet from one provider and essentially sell that one provider's service. Ameritech has invited all Internet providers to connect to Ameritech's network. Ameritech customers will have the opportunity to choose from a range of providers based upon price and service levels."

There are several unanswered questions in Ameritech's presentation of this "feature." Prices quoted for T-1 SMDS of **\$1300** a month and Frame relay of **\$1460** seem fairly cheap. What is not clear (as we pointed out above) is whether this includes the trans-LATA costs of agreements with Internet IXC's that are needed to make the AADS services worth paying for in the first place. The answer is almost certainly not because the Ameritech statement that its customers can choose varying levels of Internet IXC service implies varying prices and only single prices are quoted.

PROBLEMS FOR AADSNET OR WATCH OUT FOR THE REST OF US?

So Ameritech customers must add unknown IXC costs which will probably not be much below those quoted for the Ameritech portion of the service. This may well bring the cost up to or beyond that charged by the traditional network service providers. Furthermore we now have Internet service with many points of failure. First the local loop within the LATA. Next the inter LATA IXC routers co-located at uncertain prices in Ameritech pops, and finally the entry of most of the traffic back into the Chicago NAP. AADSnet creates many opportunities for blaming "the other guy" for any break in connectivity. We also wonder how deals will work at the Chicago NAP for those who wish to be AADSnet ICXs. Cooperate with us across LATAs and go through our NAP for free? What of a carrier like Sprint who is sure to be connected to the Chicago NAP for other reasons? Does it pay regular AADSnet interconnect and co-location rates anyway?

Of course if legislation passes the US Congress permitting the RBOCs to offer inter LATA services, this picture changes rapidly and the weakness

mentioned above along with any need for AADSnet partnerships with other Internet Service-providers disappears! Then watch out the "elephant's" business plan suddenly becomes much more viable!

TARGET MARKETS

The AADS memo announces that "existing AADS customers who already have IP experience but are not currently connected to the Internet are the primary target for AADSnet [phase 0] services." Phase 1 dial up services will begin September in selected areas. These will be targeted to individual residential users, telecommuters, and 800 number accounts from anywhere in North America. Phase two services (2nd quarter 95) will implement efforts targeted at local civic and government networks, K-12, e-mail to fax gateways and fax to e-mail gateways, and the distribution of an "internet in a box" package to individual users. Phase three services (4th quarter 95) will offer "Online Ameritech Directory services, including white pages and yellow pages." It will feature a "full user friendly information environment for information services and Internet access with community specific interest discussions." Also "virtual town meetings and group conferences over the Internet."

We imagine Mark Knopper's question box is overflowing. (For his AADSnet service is not the only enterprise under going birthing pains. Even though the NAPs were supposed to be open for business on August 15, we understand he is telling customers that connectivity to the NAP will take eight weeks from the time a customer makes all necessary and binding commitments.) We are sure Ameritech will play by all the rules. Of course while it would be helpful to know just what all the rules are, we surmise that if Ameritech does play by them, it will have a hard time making any money from AADSnet.

[Gordon Cook (cook@path.net) is the Editor/Publisher of the monthly COOK Report on Internet/NREN, a monthly insider's newsletter on the commercialization and privatization of the American Internet. The COOK Report has the most extensive information available on the political deals going down inside the Beltway. It also focuses on emerging new technologies such as cable tv and wireless radio as means of internet access. The COOK Report, 431 Greenway Ave, Ewing, NJ 08618; (609)882-2572 - Editor]

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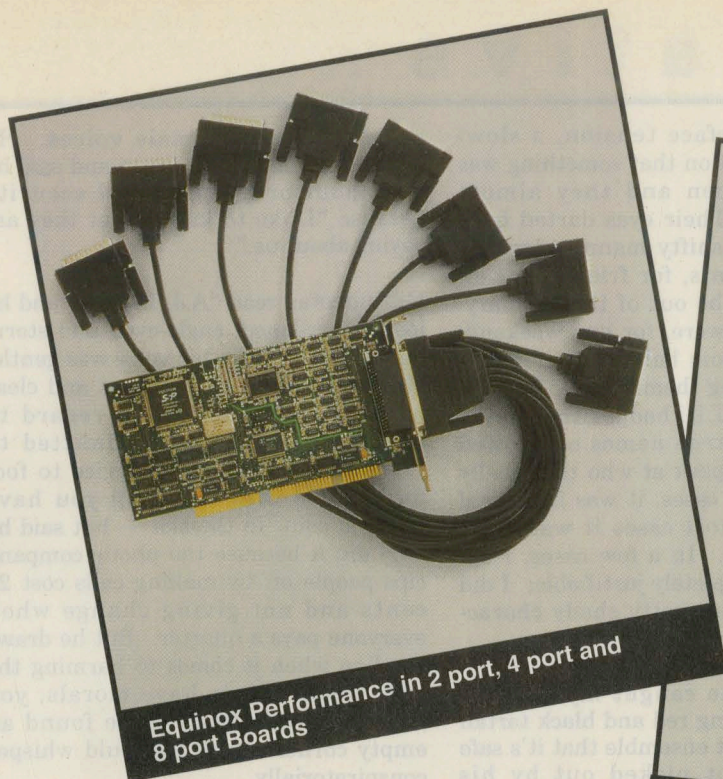
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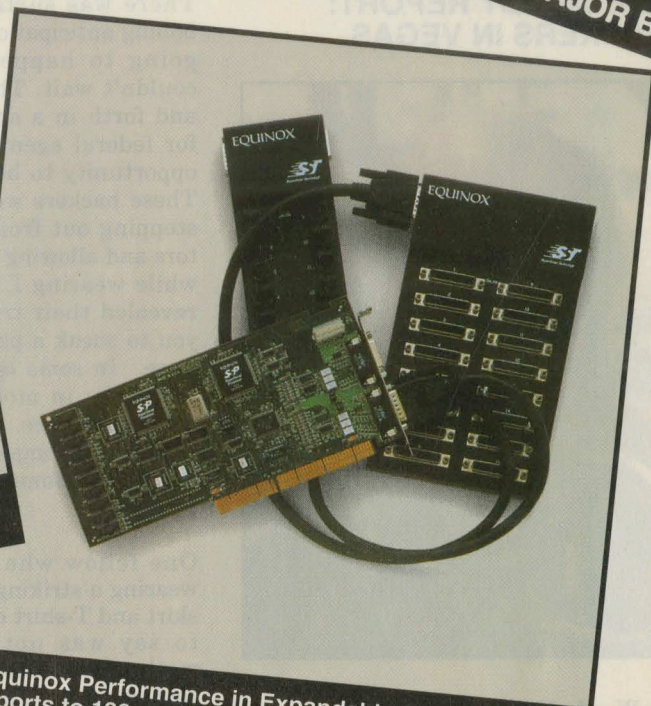
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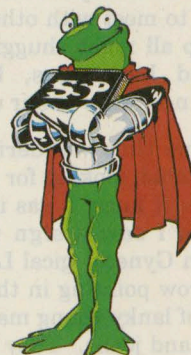
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THE WENDY REPORT: HACKERS IN VEGAS



by Wendy Murdock

Las Vegas reminds me of the crystal-growing kits we experimented with in 4th grade science class. There is something beautiful and unnatural about the city — simultaneously repulsive and fascinating. For those very reasons, it seemed fitting that Las Vegas is where Def Con II was held.

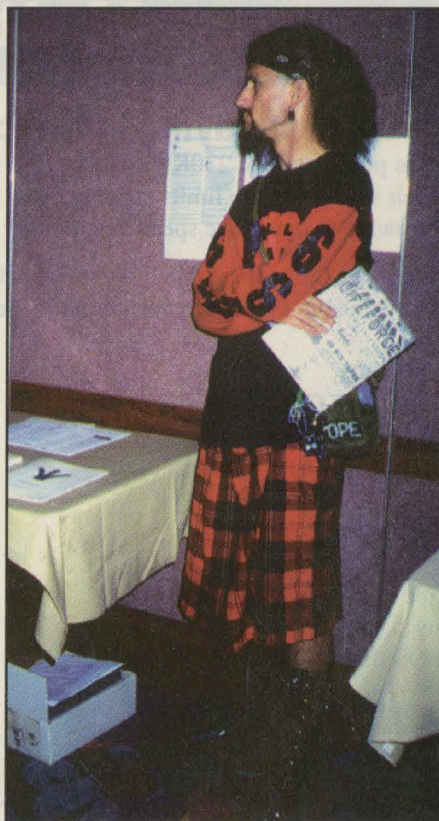
Def Con is an annual gathering of hackers, crackers, phreakers and other characters who hang out in the world of the **computer underground**. This is the second year they have begged, borrowed and perhaps stolen methods of transport to trek their way across the heated wastelands to meet with other geekoids and stay up all night chugging various caffeinated beverages, beer, and thinking of new ways to stir up trouble.

I spent some time wandering around the Sahara hotel looking for convention registration. I knew I was in the right place when I saw a sign that read, "Seminar in Gynecological Laparoscopy" with an arrow pointing in the direction of a group of lanky young males dressed in T-shirts and jeans. They all had the rounded-shoulders posture which is the tell-tale indication that they have spent their formative years hunched over a keyboard while their bodies solidified to a mature state.

As people roamed past, the hackers' gazes were inquisitive, mischievous.

There was surface tension, a slow-boiling anticipation that something was going to happen and they almost couldn't wait. Their eyes darted back and forth in a shifty manner, looking for federal agents, for friends, for an opportunity to be out of the ordinary. These hackers were, for one weekend, stepping out from behind their monitors and allowing themselves to be seen while wearing I.D. badges that never revealed their true names or allowed you to sneak a peek at who they really were. In some cases, it was irrational paranoia; in most cases it was mere self-importance. In a few cases, I am sure it was completely justifiable; I did run across some pretty shady characters.

One fellow who caught my eye was wearing a striking red and black tartan skirt and T-shirt ensemble that it's safe to say was not picked out by his mother. The second thing I noticed was that various parts of his body had been pierced, out of which were hanging shiny metallic ornaments of various shapes and sizes. He was decked out with multiple electronic doo-dads that would occasionally emit squawking



A.J. Reznor watching Gail Thackeray speak

noises or garbled male voices. He showed me the entire setup and said he was monitoring the hotel security because "I like to know what they are saying about us."

His nametag read "A.J. Reznor" and he looked hardened, eagle-eyed and stern, but when he spoke his voice was gentle. He was open about his ideas and clear on where he stood with regard to hacker morality, A.J. admitted to "redboxing" — using a device to fool payphones into thinking you have dropped coins in the slot — but said he only did it because the phone company rips people off by making calls cost 20 cents and not giving change when everyone pays a quarter. But he draws the line when it comes to harming the individual. "I do have morals, you know," he admitted as we found an empty corner where we could whisper conspiratorially.

What won't A.J. Reznor do? He won't dig in a dumpster and snarf your credit card receipts and order \$200 worth of color-coordinated pajamas from L.L. Bean. He won't hack your cellular phone. He is not a petty thief who wants to rip off his fellow man. To him, it's a matter of principle, the common man against The Corporation and The Feds — a battle to be won with technical skill and political subversion.

And that's why A.J. is an electronic nomad. He has a home, but nobody knows where it is. He won't give out his phone number, but will allow you to reach him by pager. He runs a BBS, but does it under an assumed name using the telephone of a friend. He can make phone calls from his truck and communicate via ham radio. This is a man prepared to be on the run, if it comes to that. It certainly gives one something to think about. Previous to the conference, my idea of being prepared was having a roll of breath mints and some wet-wipes in my purse.

I've spent a great deal of time on the fringe of the underground lurking on BBSs where crackers discuss raids to secure access to the superuser account, where phreakers tell how to make thousands of dollars worth of overseas phone calls for free, and where talk inevitably leads to the topic of revenge and sometimes murder. From other parts of the Net I have learned how simple it is to forge electronic mail, to

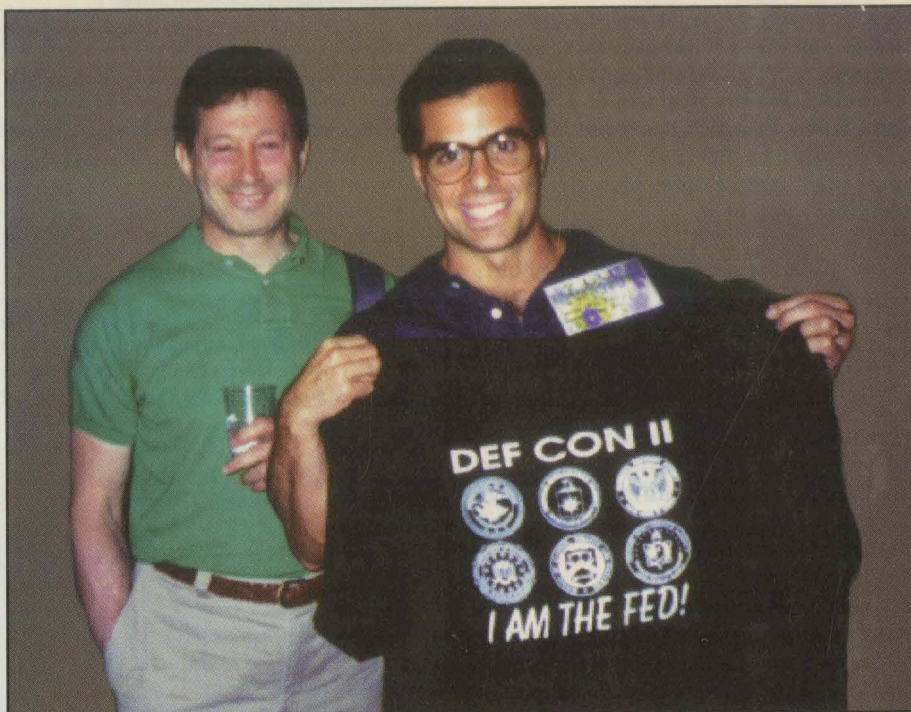
pick locks, and to make napalm from ingredients that I have in my possession right this very minute.

Considering how easy it is to whip up small explosives in one's spare time, wrap them in beautiful shiny paper, tie them with curly ribbon and deliver them to the latest object of one's psychosis, it relieves me to know that most people still retain possession of all their mental faculties and animal impulses.

When I think about the simplicity of physical and virtual terrorism, it's obvious to see why federal agents would be present at Def Con II. Still, most of the people I met at the conference were fresh-faced and eager and would probably do nothing worse than read all the X-rated material on your Unix account or perhaps forge bizarre write messages from God telling you He knows what you do when the lights go out. But you never know who is going to get a Lex Luthor complex and try to blow up a small country — or worse, take over the Net.

So, I'm scanning the room for interesting people when a harried-looking redhead zips past me, frantically searching for something. She hurries past twice and finally grabs a surprised looking man and starts whispering in his ear, her eyes darting around, settling on me as I look around innocently, pretending not to notice. They shuffle their little huddle over to another man who is standing with his hands shoved deep in his pockets and the redhead begins pointing at someone in the crowd who, by this time, is sitting listening to Phil Zimmerman give a speech on his PGP encryption software. The huddle breaks up and the redhead sits fidgeting in a seat near an outer aisle.

What was all the fuss about? There was a **Spot the Fed** contest and a victim had been found. Evidently the woman overheard this alleged agent say, "...they've already caught one of our guys..." and that's when she pounced, calling her witnesses together for an impromptu vote on whether they thought this man was a real live Fed. Now, I have to admit, the guy did stand out. When you are in a large group of people, the majority of which are males 18-25 wearing T-shirts and jeans with more rips than fabric, it's sometimes hard to blend. Especially when you are a Polo-shirt-and-loafer-wearing man who is several years past his prime.



Jonathon (left) and Fred (right) displaying the "I am the Fed" T-shirt

The first chance I got, I cornered this alleged Fed. He claimed that his name was Jonathon and he spent much of our chat trying to fob me off onto his sidekick, Fred. Both men denied they were associated with the FBI, but were vague about what they actually do — something to do with computer security. (Did you say national security?) Jonathon looked like the adventure-worn Harrison Ford type who could easily hurtle over bench seats in the airport while chasing fleeing criminals. By coincidence, when I asked how he kept in such great shape for a man of his age, he said, "Running through airports with a heavy briefcase." A heavy briefcase. Loaded with heavy sidearms, perhaps. But there were no conspicuous gun-shaped bulges showing under his Polo shirt. This is not to say that he did not have a pocket full of lethal throwing stars or a tiny Derringer strapped to his leg.

Fred was a curiosity as well. He reminded me of Clark Kent. I couldn't see him sitting behind a computer all day. Muscle-bound, tanned with a handsome yet boyish face, Fred wore glasses and looked at any moment as if he might dash into a nearby phone booth and emerge wearing a nifty little Speedo guaranteeing the appraising glance of any woman within half a city block. When I asked him what he did to stay in such top physical form

(enquiring minds want to know) he pointed to Jonathon and said, "Chasing him through airports." It was obvious to me that I wasn't getting enough frequent flyer miles.

Federal agents or not, they were awarded "I am the Fed" T-shirts and the redhead with the keen eye got a shirt that said "I spotted the Fed".

The other bit of government buzz surrounded two men who were rumored to be with the NSA. One, a soft, doughy-looking fellow, loudly denied the accusation in that I-am-really-not-with-the-NSA-but-I'd-like-you-to-think-I-am tone in his voice. He wouldn't tell anyone his name and was mimicking marginally suspicious behavior, but after a bit of snooping I uncovered that he was actually with American Express Corporate Security. The other guy claimed to be with the NSA and that admission immediately made everyone ignore him, because what goofball would actually admit such a thing? A goofball with a clever ruse, I suppose. I think they were both in it for the free T-shirt.

There was a great deal of posing during Def Con. There were hackers pretending to be innocent of wrongdoing. There were lamers (pseudo-hackers) pretending to be guilty of something. There were federal agents pretending to be businessmen and busi-

nessmen who were Fed-wannabes. It makes me wonder exactly how boring everyone's lives are during the rest of the week. It reminded me of a Charlie Chan movie in which everyone is locked in a room and through the course of events it becomes clear that nobody is who they seem to be.

It's obvious what Def Con was about; it's a part of the frantic quest for information, this decade's precious commodity. The hackers want it, and the government and corporations don't want them to have it. Knowledge is power, and the men in suits consider forking over information similar to letting your teenage son have the keys to the Porsche while you are gone for the weekend.

Def Con represents the tug-of-war that has always been present — people strive to get that which is just out of reach, aggravating governments and breaking rules in the process. The appeal here is the controversy itself. A hacker's goal is to create a stir, to wreak havoc within the Establishment and half-heartedly attempt to wrestle power from the hands of the few who wield it. Once the goal is achieved, it's time to find a new cause for which to fight.

As I left Def Con, I was weaving my way through the casino crowds and happened to bump into A.J. Reznor who stood out even amid the sequins and neon lights. To me, A.J. represents the dichotomy of the hacker who wants to make his mark on the world, yet retain his precious anonymity.

I turned to wave to him as he walked backwards away from me, grinning manically — an electronic cowboy walking into the garish and unnatural neon sunset and somehow blending in seamlessly. He lifted his hand in a brief salute, then disappeared into the crowd — a trick he and the other hackers are making the habit of a lifetime.

[Wendy Murdock is an artist, writer, and Internet veteran specializing in creative art forms including BBSs and MUDs.]

RESOURCES

For those of you who love the World-Wide Web, there is a home page devoted to security and hacking. It has links to pages relating to cryptography, general security, upcoming cons and other hacker Web pages and ftp sites. <http://dfw.net/~aleph1/>

There are numerous scholarly articles on the philosophical, ethical and legal issues regarding the Net. Use **gopher** to connect to wiretap.spies.com. Once connected choose:

Wiretap Online Library Cyberspace

If you have a more mischievous nature, choose:

Wiretap Online Library Questionables

There you will find articles about ATM codes, how to make alcohol, pick locks, blow things up, burn things to the ground, and commit random and senseless acts of violence.

Zines go really well with the Underground culture. **Phrack** is an electronic magazine that has been in circulation for eight years, which is a pretty remarkable lifespan for a zine. This publication covers legal and technical issues that relate to the computer underground culture. Use ftp to connect to [ftp.eff.org](ftp://ftp.eff.org). To find **Phrack**, look in the following directory: [/pub/Publications/CuD/Phrack](ftp://pub/Publications/CuD/Phrack)

Hackers are not stingy with their information as long as they know you are making an effort not to be totally lame. Some folks who hang out on ISCA BBS have put together an interesting FAQ which covers phreaking, social engineering, things that explode, computer virii, forging electronic mail, computer security and general chemical mischief.

You can find **TheHag** using ftp at [grind.isca.uiowa.edu](ftp://grind.isca.uiowa.edu) in [/info/computers/hacking/thehaq.txt](ftp://grind.isca.uiowa.edu/info/computers/hacking/thehaq.txt). Something fun to note: when you switch to the hacking directory, you will be told, "Remember. Illegal entry into a computer system is a crime. This directory is for informational purposes only."

If you feel the nearly irresistible urge to make an incendiary device or something for effective crowd control, check out **The Terrorist's Handbook** and **The Big Book of Mischief**. If these don't get you in trouble,

nothing will. Gopher to wiretap.spies.com and make these selections:

Wiretap Online Library Questionables

If you are a spy or other subversive, or if you have a great cookie recipe to hide, get Phil Zimmerman's **PGP** public encryption software to send your e-mail in code. (And it helps if people know how to read it when it gets to them...) **PGP** is available via ftp at [ftp.uu.net](ftp://ftp.uu.net). The directory name is [/pub/security/pgp](ftp://pub/security/pgp).

When PGP is just not enough, you can take that encrypted cookie recipe and imbed it into something graphical, like a GIF. At this time, only a Mac version is ready, but it looks like someone might be making new software that will work on a PC. **Stego** allows you to hide your documents within any GIF picture. Use ftp to login at [scss3.cl.msu.edu](ftp://scss3.cl.msu.edu). Your path will be [/pub/crypt/other/stego1.0a2.sit.hq](ftp://pub/crypt/other/stego1.0a2.sit.hq).

Bruce Sterling is a well-known science fiction writer who often covers the Cyberpunk genre. He has written a paper called **The Hacker Crackdown** which is available at gopher.well.sf.ca.us.

From the main menu, select:

Cyberpunk and Postmodern Culture Bruce Sterling The Hacker Crackdown

A great deal of terms are generated in the hacker scene. Some are computer related, some are merely cultural. **The Hacker's Dictionary** is a handy reference tool when someone says "Feetch feetch!" to you and you need to know what it means. Gopher to crusher.bev.net.

Choose the following menu items:

Reference Desk Dictionaries and Thesauruses The Hacker's Dictionary

The Hacker Test is a fun way to measure how much of a hacker you really are. It asks questions like, "Can you whistle 1200 baud?" and "Did you ever forget to mount a scratch monkey?" You can find **The Hacker Test** by gophering to spinaltap.micro.umn.edu and choosing:

fun Humor Hacker Test

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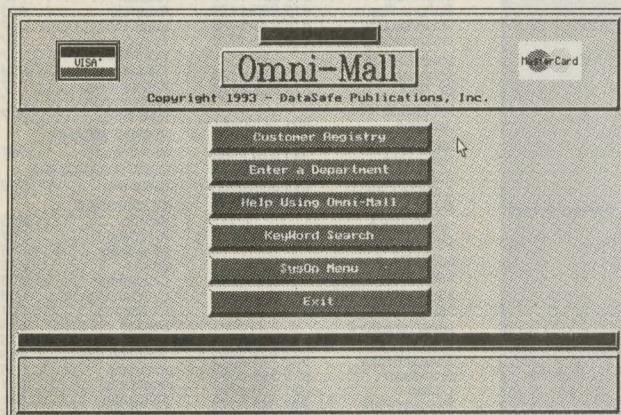
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| FOURmation | Global Destruction | Line Monitor |
| Global Power | HVS Utilities | Match Maker |
| HelpMan | Major Goose | Remote Console |
| NovaTrek | The Newsroom | |
| Omni-Mall | Sysop Notepad | Online Employment Service |
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COMT - QMODEM OR PROCOMM OVER TCP/IP

by Jack Rickard

The standard solution emerging very rapidly to connect personal computers to the Internet revolves around using Windows with a TCP/IP stack that offers a common program interface to other programs. NetManage was the first off the block with this concept broadly termed Windows Sockets Dynamic Link Library or more commonly **WINSOCK.DLL**. A shareware version titled TRUMPET WINSOCK is freely available, and allows you to connect your desktop to the Internet using a dialup serial line internet protocol (SLIP) or point-to-point protocol (PPP) account, or if your local LAN happens to be already connected to the Internet, in that fashion.

The advantage of course is that by leaving most of the lower level vagaries of TCP/IP to WINSOCK, it is very easy to write application programs to access various Internet services. With Microsoft's Visual Basic, some documentation on WINSOCK, and a good idea, you can write the next killer application for the Internet.

But there is some reinvention of the wheel that goes on in the process. Telnet is the basic protocol for logging onto a remote service. Most of the "Internet" packages available for Windows provide a telnet client, and several shareware versions are available as well. We have found them almost universally bad - with a lot of the problems centering around such basics as ANSI terminal emulation. The result is that if you telnet to a BBS that is now on the Internet, many of the things you are accustomed to doing on a BBS by direct dial are forfeit - Zmodem downloads, RIP graphics, etc. And everything looks funny.

Well, it doesn't have to be that way. As comes up so often in communications tool development, we are only inches away, if we knew which inch. David Yon of Performance Designs in Concord Massachusetts has found the missing inch and bridged it with a delightfully simple and yes, elegant solution he calls **COMt: the Telnet Modem**.

Basically, COMt allows you to use your existing Windows terminal program such as Qmodem for Windows, Telix for Windows, Procomm for Windows, or

Crosstalk to telnet to systems on the Internet. It does this by acting as a shim layer between the Windows comm driver and the terminal program. You can define any COM port to be your Internet connection, and COMt will connect the terminal program to WINSOCK. To the terminal program, this comm port looks like a Hayes modem. To the outside world, the terminal program looks like a telnet client. You can logon to a BBS on the Internet using Qmodem now.

COMt is not just a superb idea, but the execution is a thing of beauty. Installation is so easy, we weren't sure we had it installed. Put all the files in a directory and click on INSTALL. It will ask you which COM ports you want to define as Internet connections. Note that you can and should define more than one, but only COM1-COM4 are actually available under the standard Windows kernel. COMt can actually support up to eight if you have something like a Digiboard driver installed. But the point is that in Windows, you could have multiple telnet sessions going on simultaneously, and it isn't a problem for COMt and WINSOCK.

The program creates a program group under Windows, and there are readme's and configuration programs in it. We never looked at them, and you don't have to. The config program allows you to change your com port definitions later if you like.

At installation, we defined COM3, which doesn't exist in hardware on our machine, as an Internet connection. We called up Qmodem, and defined COM3 as the device. We then entered **ATDT boardwatch.littleton.co.us**. And we logged onto our BBS over the LAN with all the power and functionality of Qmodem - RIP graphics, Zmodem downloads, automatic display of downloaded GIF images, and so forth. No further work was done at Boardwatch that day. We could dial anywhere on the net with an ATDT host name, and we were there. Better, if we selected COM 1 as the device in Qmodem, we could then use our modem quite normally. ANSI screens looked like ANSI, RIP screens looked very RIPed up, databases with GIF images displayed flawlessly. It was still IP packets, and a bit jerky depending on the destination, but we were back home on the interface thing.

And it's very flexible. For example, CompuServe is now on the net and you can telnet to **compuserve.com**. If you have their WINCIM front end in

version 1.3 or later, COMt will let you use it directly via telnet. It is just a shim to redirect traffic from a modem port to a telnet address through WINSOCK. It works with almost any type of existing terminal program and provides responses to that program exactly as if it were a Hayes modem. There are even a few additional "S register" options to play with.

You can dial using either host name (**boardwatch.littleton.co.us**) or IP address (**199.33.229.254**). It even allows you to specify a particular port in brackets. You can **ATDT 199.33.229.254[25]** for example to connect directly to the SMTP mail server, and if you know the talk, type in a message directly.

This may be one of the most delightful little software jewels we've ever found. And there just were no flaws. Crippled? No. When you bring it up the first time there is a discreet little box asking you to register the program, and nothing thereafter. The price? Mr. Yon is asking the world at **\$15.95**. If you are playing with Internet Protocol connections from Windows, and don't have this little software wrench in your toolbox, you are essentially unarmed. Performance Designs, PO Box 1005, Concord, MA 01742; **(508)369-0825** voice; **comt@world.std.com**.

NETBOY - AN INTERNET CARTOON PANEL

It had to happen, Li'l Abner with a net jones. The Internet has its first, (well the first we've seen) cartoonist in a gentleman named Stafford Huyler, and a regular panel cartoon titled NETBOY available on a World Wide Web server accessible using Mosaic at **http://www.interaccess.com/netboy.html**. The cartoons are in the instantly recognizable "funny papers" style, with NetBoy and Bran LANman, a couple of stick figures in a vaguely 3D world, seeking adventure and mayhem in the world of the Internet. The comic strip deals with such issues as cryptography, the clipper chip, hacking, and so forth. In a recent series, NetBoy and Bran LANman have hacked into a system somewhere, and redirected the income from Home Shopping Club to their own account.

The strip is humorous, but very inside the net. We approached Huyler, who in real life works for an Internet services provider, about carrying NetBoy in Boardwatch Magazine, and he noted he

had heard from several magazines that wanted to carry NetBoy but wanted something a little more generic and understandable by the wider audience. We did plead for the original, very nettish version for Boardwatch, and we'll be carrying it for the next six issues for your amusement. If you get it, great. If you don't, call somebody. We think it's hilarious. Inquiries to netboy@interaccess.com.

WEBCRAWLER - WORLD WIDE WEB BY E-MAIL

The world has gone gaga over the NCSA Mosaic program, a graphic interface to the World Wide Web, a network of servers offering information and hypertext links. Those with e-mail only access to the Internet are a little left out of the game. While e-mail access to an interactive multi-media network may make little sense, it can technically be done. Odd de Presno (opresno@extern.uio.no) of Norway, publisher of the electronic Online World Monitor Newsletter sent us the scoop on how to do it, and notes that many of the WWW pages are indeed available by e-mail via a list processor in Cern Switzerland titled the WebCrawler. It provides a slow scan access to most WWW home pages.

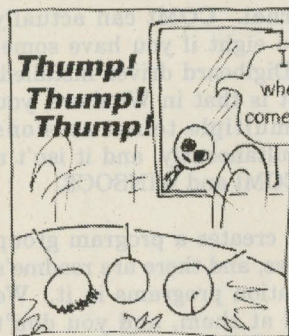
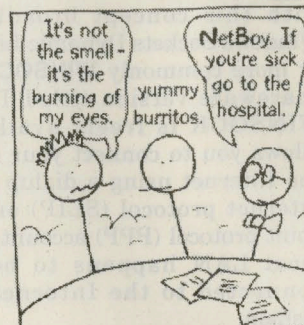
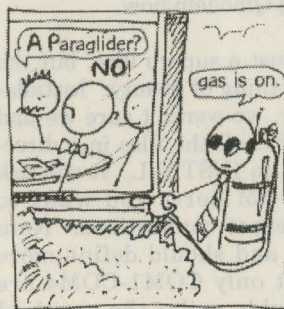
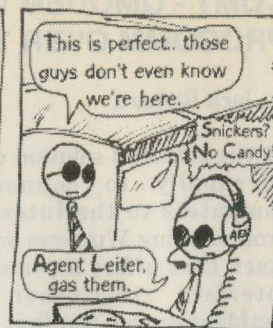
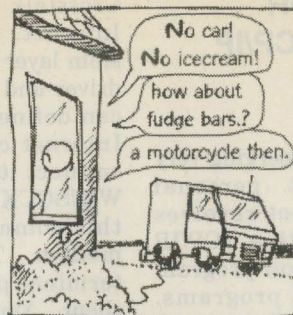
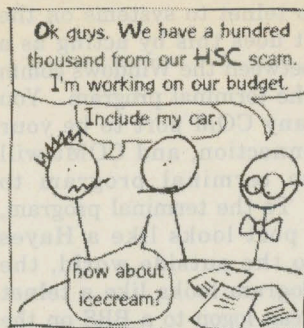
You can request WWW pages by sending email to listproc@www0.cern.ch. Put your retrieval commands in the BODY of the mail, like this

www
<http://www.biotech.washington.edu/WebCrawler/WebCrawlerExamples.html>

If you use the example above, you'll receive a page full of instructions on how to use the WebCrawler service.

INTERNET STATS FOR FIRST HALF OF 1994

One of the most basic continuing measurements of the size of the Internet was released in August by the Internet Society. For more than ten years, the Internet has been measured almost every quarter by the number of host computers reachable. This is a key value because one of the most fundamental capabilities of the Internet is to directly link virtually any kind of computer across almost any kind of telecommunication medium. The measurement is described in the Internet document RFC 1296.



Ver 1.7 "I Pity the fool"

NetBoy@Interaccess.com

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<http://www.interaccess.com/netboy.html>



INTERNET GROWTH

| | July 94 | Jan 94 | Oct 93 | Jul 93 | Change |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Hosts: | 3,212,000 | 2,217,000 | 2,056,000 | 1,776,000 | 81% |
| Domains: | 46,000 | 30,000 | 28,000 | 26,000 | 77% |

The latest measurement - sometimes referred to as "the Internet Walk" - shows 3.2 million reachable machines. This is an increase of 81 percent for the past year, and represents an even steeper than normal increase over the past six months. Indeed, 1 million new hosts were added during the first six months of 1994. Much of the increased growth is attributable to growth outside the U.S. in over 80 countries. These values are shown in the sidebar.

The so-called Internet Domain Survey is the product of Mark Lottor of Network Wizards. The Domain Survey attempts to discover every host on the Internet by doing a complete search of the Domain Name System. The latest results were gathered during late-July 1994 are listed below. For more detailed data see the zone directory on <ftp.nw.com>, or the Net Wizards World Wide Web home page at <http://www.nw.com>

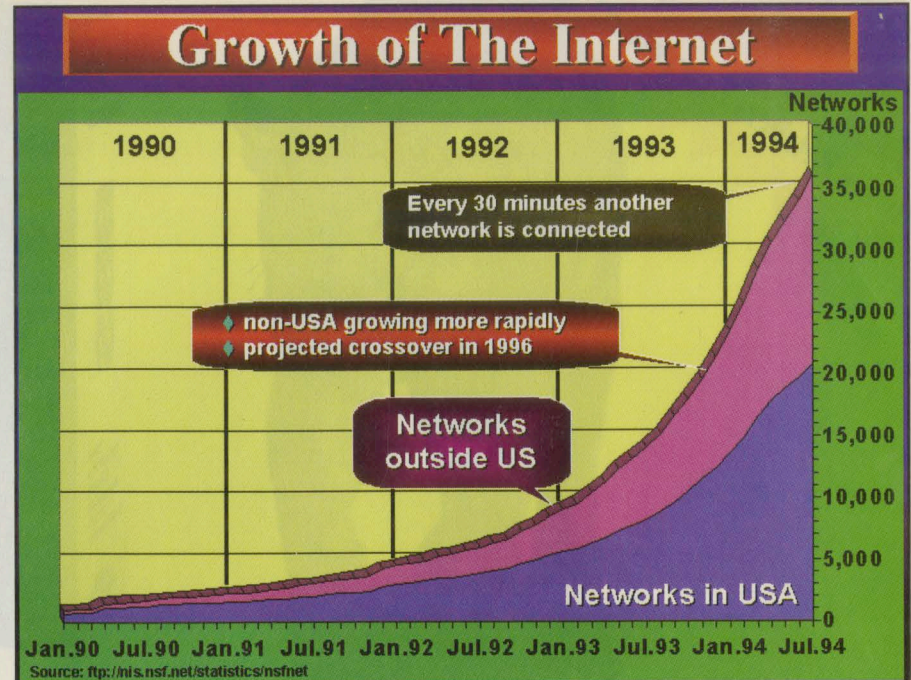
The Internet Society is the international organization for the Internet, its technologies and applications. For more information on this subject or other information concerning the Internet, the Society's activities and publications, contact the Society's International Secretariat at 12020 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 270, Reston, VA 22091; (703)648-9888 voice; (703)648-9887 fax - or visit the ISOC home page using Mosaic at: <http://info.isoc.org>

ONLINE NEWSPAPER TO DEVELOP INTERNET PRODUCTS WITH MOSAIC COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE

The San Jose Mercury News announced August 23rd a development agreement with Mosaic Communications Corporation of Mountain View, California, for software that will enable the Mercury News to deliver an electronic newspaper on the Internet.

The Mercury News, a Knight-Ridder newspaper, currently offers Mercury Center, which was the first complete online newspaper service.

"We're excited about the potential of the World Wide Web and about being the first newspaper to use Mosaic Communications's new software," said Bob Ingle, president and executive editor of the Mercury News. "We've

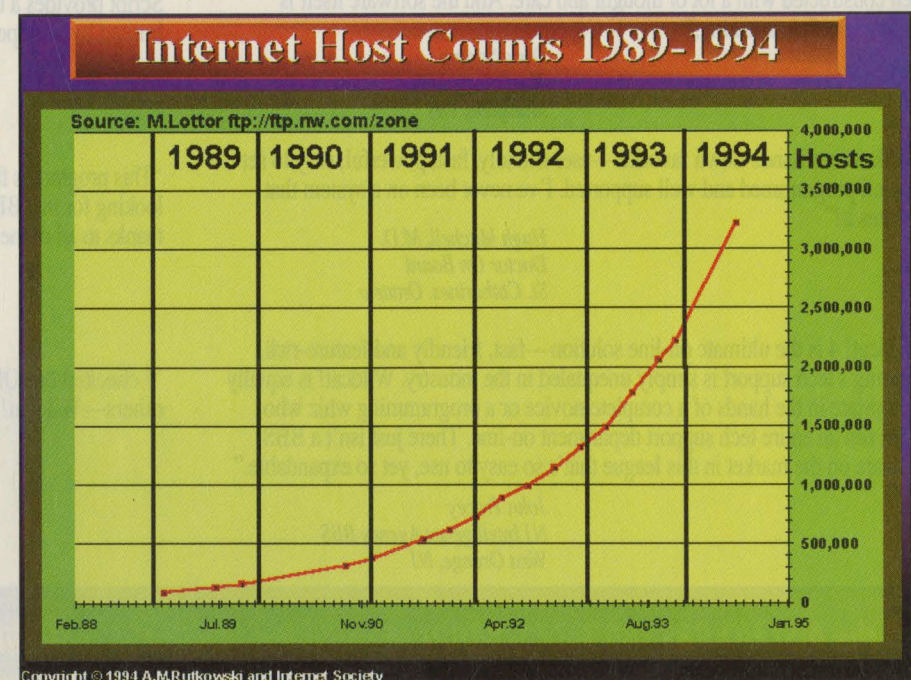


been concerned about the ability of the current Web server software to handle the demands of a daily newspaper and the potential of the client software to be a true consumer product," said Ingle. "We didn't want to put up something that would be an anticlimax after the success of Mercury Center on America Online. Mosaic Communications products are the missing pieces of the puzzle."

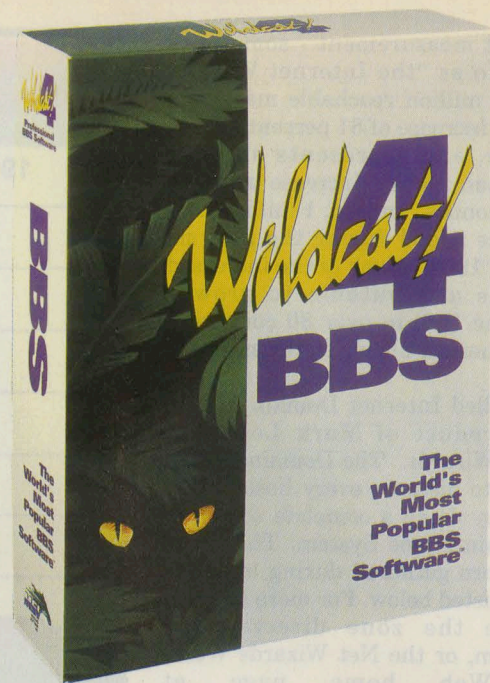
Mosaic Communications intends to be the premier provider of open software to enable the most effective exchange of information and commercial enterprise over global networks. The

company was co-founded in April 1994 by Dr. James H. Clark, founder of Silicon Graphics Inc., and Marc Andreessen, creator of the original Mosaic software for the Internet. The company plans to develop commercial versions of Mosaic, the most popular software for accessing the World Wide Web on the Internet.

"The Mercury News team's enthusiasm for online services and their proximity to us makes this an ideal partnership," said Clark, chairman and CEO of Mosaic Communications. "Our technical teams have already spent many hours together to identify



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*Drew Sprang
The Polaris BBS
Mansfield, OH*

"Wildcat! is a hands-down favorite—user friendly, fast, powerful, easy to set up, well programmed and well supported. I've never been on a system that matches it!"

*Hugh Mitchell, M.D.
Doctor On Board
St. Catharines, Ontario*

"Wildcat! 4 is the ultimate on-line solution—fast, friendly and feature-rich. Mustang's tech support is simply unequaled in the industry. Wildcat! is equally appropriate in the hands of a complete novice or a programming whiz who might run an entire tech support department on-line. There just isn't a BBS software on the market in this league that's so easy to use, yet so expandable."

*John Tracey
NJ Intelligence Agency BBS
West Orange, NJ*

"Wildcat! 4 is the most progressive BBS platform on the market. Its new configurable architecture and the graphics capabilities of RIP Script provides a truly individualistic look and feel. Wildcat! is only limited by your personal creativity and imagination."

*Dan Dunn
Atlanta Information Exchange BBS
Atlanta, GA*

"This program is fabulous—beyond words! It's everything I was looking for in a BBS software package and then some! Give my thanks to all of the programmers who made Wildcat! 4 what it is."

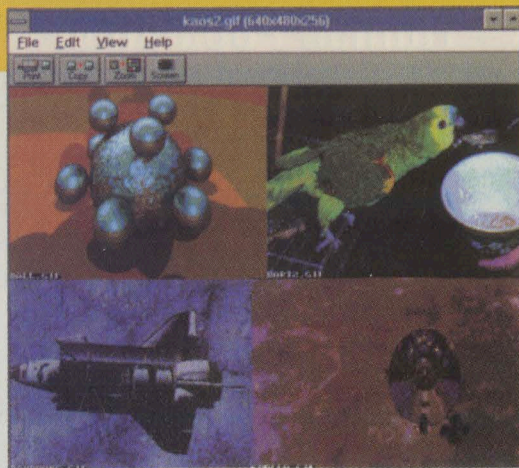
*Tony Harrison
Shadowgate BBS
Sterling, IL*

"I checked out QBBS, RBBS, PCBoard, BBSXpress, Spitfire and others—Wildcat! was the easy winner."

*Benjamin Kopp
The Graphics Exchange System
Atlanta, GA*

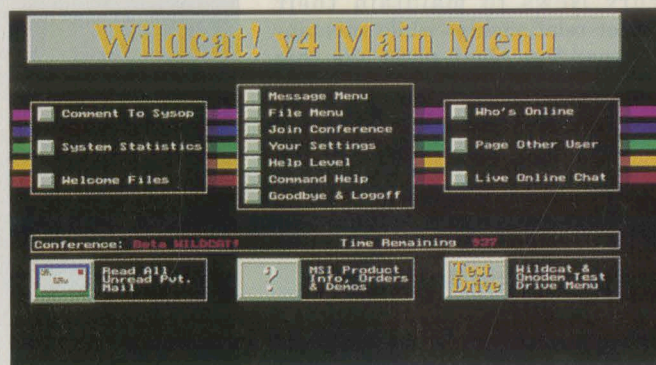
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- ▶ **.GIF Thumbnailer**—allows callers to preview multiple .GIFs before downloading.
- ▶ **Automatically Import File Descriptions**—supports FILE_ID.DIZ and DESC.SDI, saving you and your callers time while maintaining better file descriptions.
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- ▶ **Improved Internet Message Handling**—64KB messages give you over 800 lines of text. We've also expanded our message headers to support up to 70 characters for those long Internet addresses.
- ▶ **Duplicate Name Support**—so your BBS can handle common caller names. Also lets you have common files like PKUNZIP in multiple file areas.
- ▶ **Local Sysop Node Support**—lets you perform maintenance while callers are on-line.
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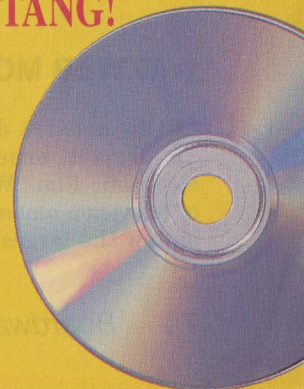
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*Buy Wildcat! 4 between October 1, 1994, and February 28, 1995, and mail in this coupon—along with your product registration card—to receive our CD-ROM while supplies last. Void where prohibited by law. Offer good only for purchases of Wildcat! 4 when coupon is accompanied with product registration card.



market needs for online publishing. The use of the Internet for these applications has been limited until now by lack of security, performance and ease of use. By addressing these issues, Mosaic Communications software will enable content providers such as the Mercury News to maintain their subscriber relationships while substantially expanding their reach via this fast-growing global network."

The Mercury News is the source of the first complete online newspaper, Mercury Center. Mercury Center offers:

- The full text of the daily paper.
- The daily paper's classified advertising.
- Access to the electronic archives of the Mercury News and 17 other U.S. newspapers.
- Electronic mail.
- Bulletin boards to reach the paper's editors and columnists.
- Online advertising.
- Hundreds of other stories every day that supplement the printed edition of the paper.

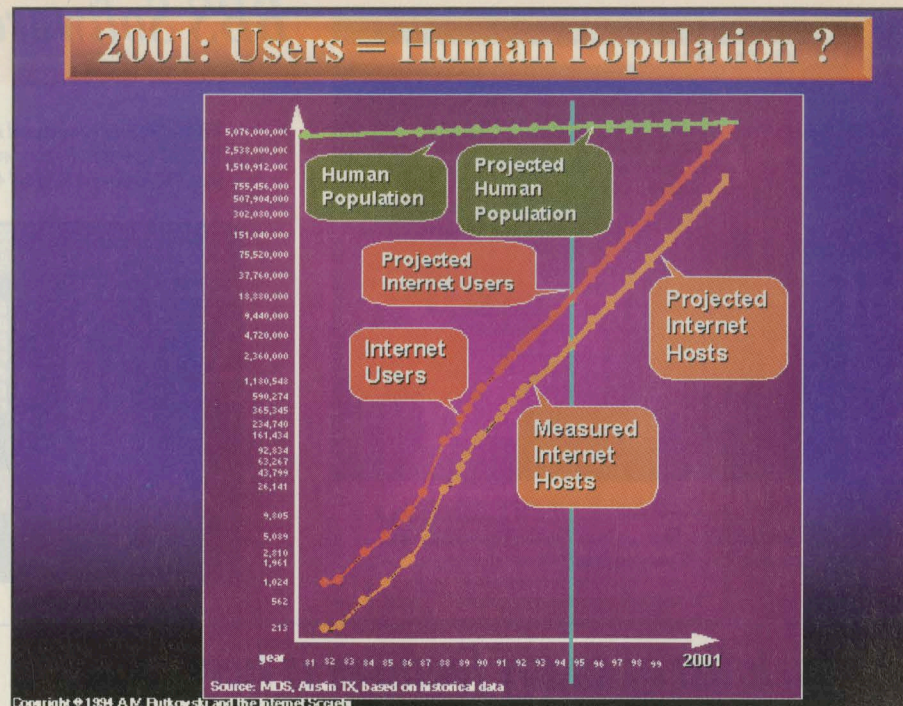
The Mercury News is the local newspaper for the region that is leading the development of the Internet. Its circulation area includes the headquarters of Sun Microsystems, Hewlett-Packard, Apple Computer, Cisco Systems, Silicon Graphics, Adobe, Stanford University, and Intel. Its coverage of Silicon Valley business and the Internet in many ways makes it the hometown paper of cyberspace. Nearly one-third of the households in the Mercury News circulation area have a modem, three times the national average.

"Mosaic creates an open market for information," said Ingle. "We believe that in that kind of marketplace newspapers have something significant to offer the consumer."

Barry Parr, Marketing Manager, Mercury Center, San Jose Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190; (408)920-5384; barry-parr@sjmercury.com

WAXWEB MOSAIC-MOO

This network-delivered hypermedia project, based on David Blair's electronic film "WAX or the discovery of television among the bees" combines one of the largest hypermedia narra-



tive databases on the current free Internet with a unique authoring interface that allows Mosaic or MOO users to make immediate, publically visible hypermedia links to the main document.

Waxweb consists of more than 900 pages of hypertext, available to both WWW (Mosaic) and MOO users. English, French and Japanese text versions of the film's monologue will automatically be inserted into the hypertext, according to the wishes of the visitor. Mosaic users will have

access to the hypermedia portions of the document, which includes the entire film embedded as 1600 color stills, 560 mpeg video clips, and 560 AIFF audio clips, including the soundtrack in English, French, German, and Japanese. This document has been created by David Blair, with invited contributions by a number of authors, and generous assistance provided by Melynda Barnhart and Anna Youssefi.

Visitors have the ability to make immediately visible links from any word to any other word, add comments to any



page, and also to create their own pages (or many pages!), thus adding to narrative of the main Waxweb. By turning a MOO (text-based virtual reality) into a dynamic HTML document, Mosaic users will have the ability to use a forms-based interface to transparently write publically visible hypertext (and hypermedia) additions to the main document. This breakthrough in Mosaic functionality has been written by Tom Meyer, with assistance from Suzanne Hader, and some coding help from Chiba.

In 1993, "Wax" was the "First Film on the Internet" (Markoff, New York Times, Business section, 5.24.93), sent out as a relatively high bandwidth multicast over the experimental multimedia backbone (MBONE). WAXWEB is an attempt to re-multicast "Wax" in a form more appropriate for the current Internet. As a narrative server available to both text interface and visual interface users, WAXWEB uses hybridized off-the-shelf freeware/shareware tools to demonstrate that the 5,000,000 channels are here now.

The WaxWeb project was made possible by networked associate fellow status provided by the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at the University of Virginia, headed by John Unsworth. WAXWEB opened to the Internet on July 24th, 1994. Waxweb has received partial funding from the New York State Council for the Arts -Electronic Arts finishing fund-, administered by the Experimental Television Center, Owego, NY. Software and technical assistance were provided by Eastgate Systems, maker of Storyspace hypertext software. Mpeg compression hardware and software provided by Xing Technologies. SLIP access has generously been provided by Echonyc.com.

Users of WWW readers (Lynx, Mosaic) can reach Waxweb MosaicMOO at this URL:
<http://bug.village.virginia.edu:7777>

MOO people can reach the Waxweb MosaicMOO at: bug.village.virginia.edu:7777

Contact David Blair at:
artist1@bug.village.virginia.edu

INTERNET COUNTRY HOSTS - JULY 1994

| COUNTRY | HOSTS | % OF TOTAL | CHANGE FROM JAN 94 |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| US total | 2,044,401 | 63% | 38% |
| .edu | 856,234 | 27% | 41% |
| .com | 774,735 | 24% | 36% |
| .gov | 169,248 | 5% | 31% |
| .mil | 130,176 | 4% | 26% |
| .org | 66,459 | 2% | 31% |
| .net | 30,993 | 1% | 146% |
| .us | 16,556 | 1% | 153% |
| Total Non-U.S. | 1,180,776 | 37% | |
| United Kingdom | 155,706 | 5% | 37% |
| Germany | 149,193 | 5% | 51% |
| Canada | 127,516 | 4% | 48% |
| Australia | 127,514 | 4% | 42% |
| Japan | 72,409 | 2% | 69% |
| France | 71,899 | 2% | 117% |
| Netherlands | 59,729 | 2% | 43% |
| Sweden | 53,294 | 2% | 40% |
| Finland | 49,598 | 2% | ** |
| Switzerland | 47,401 | 1% | 24% |
| Norway | 38,759 | 1% | 22% |
| Italy | 23,616 | 1% | 38% |
| Spain | 21,147 | 1% | 79% |
| Austria | 20,130 | 1% | 30% |
| South Africa | 15,595 | <1% | 42% |
| New Zealand | 14,830 | <1% | 157% |
| Korea | 12,109 | <1% | 35% |
| Denmark | 12,107 | <1% | 175% |
| Belgium | 12,107 | <1% | 147% |
| Taiwan | 10,314 | <1% | 29% |
| Hong Kong | 9,141 | <1% | 60% |
| Italy | 8,464 | <1% | 28% |
| Poland | 7,392 | <1% | 55% |
| Brazil | 5,896 | <1% | 63% |
| Czech Rep. | 5,639 | <1% | 169% |
| Hungary | 5,390 | <1% | 122% |
| Mexico | 5,164 | <1% | 45% |
| Portugal | 4,518 | <1% | 25% |
| Singapore | 4,014 | <1% | 45% |
| Chile | 3,703 | <1% | 170% |
| Ireland | 3,308 | <1% | 103% |
| Iceland | 3,268 | <1% | 73% |
| Russian Fed. (SU) | 3,145 | <1% | 142% |
| Greece | 2,958 | <1% | 249% |
| Czech&Slovak (CS) | 1,869 | <1% | -36% |
| Malaysia | 1,322 | <1% | 204% |
| Turkey | 1,204 | <1% | 140% |
| Thailand | 1,197 | <1% | 334% |
| Slovakia | 868 | <1% | 70% |
| Croatia | 838 | <1% | 79% |
| Estonia | 659 | <1% | 93% |
| Slovenia | 574 | <1% | -9% |
| Costa Rica | 544 | <1% | 153% |
| Romania | 453 | <1% | 466% |
| Luxembourg | 420 | <1% | 37% |
| Venezuela | 399 | <1% | 6% |
| Ukraine | 339 | <1% | 994% |
| China | 325 | <1% | * |
| Russian Fed. (RU) | 322 | <1% | * |
| India | 316 | <1% | 129% |
| International orgs | 315 | <1% | 34% |
| Kuwait | 297 | <1% | 115% |
| Ecuador | 256 | <1% | 73% |
| Argentina | 248 | <1% | 8167% |
| Latvia | 180 | <1% | 150% |
| Colombia | 144 | <1% | * |
| Uruguay | 101 | <1% | * |
| Bulgaria | 79 | <1% | 276% |
| Peru | 75 | <1% | * |
| Philippines | 65 | <1% | * |
| Indonesia | 54 | <1% | * |
| Lithuania | 53 | <1% | * |
| Egypt | 52 | <1% | 11% |
| Tunisia | 46 | <1% | 318% |
| Peru | 42 | <1% | * |
| Cyprus | 38 | <1% | 660% |
| Liechtenstein | 27 | <1% | 59% |
| Panama | 24 | <1% | * |
| Nicaragua | 23 | <1% | * |
| Macau | 12 | <1% | * |
| Algeria | 7 | <1% | * |
| Fiji | 5 | <1% | 0% |
| Iran | 4 | <1% | 0% |
| Antartica | 4 | <1% | * |
| Moldova | 2 | <1% | * |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 | <1% | * |

* Not connected in Jan 1994

** Not counted in Jan 1994

SUICIDE COUNSELING BY E-MAIL

The Samaritans are a non-religious charity offering emotional support to the suicidal and despairing. A test of "Help By E-mail" launched on July 14, 1994 proved so successful that an Internet domain is now open and is reached by mailing: jo@samaritans.org.

The E-mail service is run from Cheltenham, England, and is reached from anywhere with Internet access. At the launch, Mike Haines, the Director said: "During the test month we received over 200 messages. Many were from well wishers, journalists and academics but there were around 15 very desperate people as well. The need for a full launch of our service with an easier address was amply demonstrated."

The Samaritans have been offering support to the suicidal and despairing for over 40 years by phone, visit and letter. Callers are guaranteed absolute confidentiality and retain the right to make their own decisions including the decision to end their life. Samaritans

are carefully selected and prepared for this work (for which they are not paid). Those working with E-mail have additional training. Volunteers read and reply to mail every day of the year. A nominal end date of December 31, 1994 has been set but initial results have been so encouraging that it is likely to run indefinitely.

The idea of an Internet service was born when a volunteer was exploring the UK based CIX conferencing service. Here, he discovered the "suicidehelp" self help group and Newsnet groups such as "alt.support.depression." After discussions with The Samaritans General Office it was decided to try offering a service from Cheltenham. The kind donation of a modem by US Robotics was a great help as was the assistance of staff at Compulink Information Exchange (CIX). The Samaritans of Cheltenham and District, 3 Clarence Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos, England; Emergency phone: +44 242 515777; Press enquiries: +44 452 854017; E-mail: jo@samaritans.org (samaritans@cix.compulink.co.uk retained) Anonymous E-mail: samaritans@anon.penet.fi

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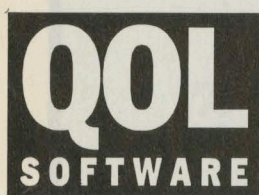
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COMMERCIAL DOMAINS WITHIN THE U.S. AND CANADA JULY, 1994.....

A total of some 17,000 commercial (.COM) domains were registered as of July, 1994 across the U.S. and Canada. The table below lists the top 50 areas defined by telephone area code in order of the number of domains. We found it interesting to note that the Denver/Boulder area was the third most densely .COM'ed area in the country.

| RANK | AREACODE | DOMAINS | STATE | METRO AREA |
|------|----------|---------|-------|------------------------|
| 1 | 415 | 1460 | CA | San Francisco |
| 2 | 408 | 1158 | CA | San Jose |
| 3 | 303 | 942 | CO | Denver |
| 4 | 617 | 739 | MA | Boston |
| 5 | 212 | 532 | NY | Manhattan |
| 6 | 703 | 527 | VA | Arlington |
| 7 | 510 | 497 | CA | Oakland |
| 8 | 206 | 429 | WA | Seattle |
| 9 | 619 | 375 | CA | San Diego |
| 10 | 508 | 330 | MA | Worcester/Framingham |
| 11 | 708 | 318 | IL | Aurora |
| 12 | 612 | 314 | MN | Minneapolis/Saint Paul |
| 13 | 416 | 297 | ON | Toronto |
| 14 | 301 | 285 | MD | Silver Springs |
| 15 | 310 | 285 | CA | Los Angeles |
| 16 | 503 | 282 | OR | Portland |
| 17 | 714 | 270 | CA | Orange County |
| 18 | 713 | 245 | TX | Houston |
| 19 | 512 | 244 | TX | Austin |
| 20 | 214 | 226 | TX | Dallas |
| 21 | 313 | 222 | MI | Detroit |
| 22 | 818 | 220 | CA | Pasadena |
| 23 | 602 | 218 | AZ | Phoenix |
| 24 | 908 | 215 | NJ | Elizabeth |
| 25 | 215 | 213 | PA | Philadelphia |
| 26 | 203 | 205 | CT | Hartford |
| 27 | 404 | 203 | GA | Atlanta |
| 28 | 201 | 172 | NJ | Paramus |
| 29 | 312 | 148 | IL | Chicago |
| 30 | 805 | 146 | CA | Bakersfield |
| 31 | 603 | 145 | NH | Concord |
| 32 | 216 | 144 | OH | Cleveland |
| 33 | 719 | 143 | CO | Colorado Springs |
| 34 | 412 | 141 | PA | Pittsburgh |
| 35 | 609 | 129 | NJ | Atlantic City |
| 36 | 202 | 128 | DC | Washington |
| 37 | 516 | 120 | NY | Hempstead |
| 38 | 919 | 120 | NC | Raleigh |
| 39 | 305 | 115 | FL | Miami/Fort Lauderdale |
| 40 | 604 | 115 | BC | Vancouver |
| 41 | 410 | 114 | MD | Baltimore |
| 42 | 614 | 109 | OH | Columbus |
| 43 | 914 | 106 | NY | White Plains |
| 44 | 513 | 105 | OH | Cincinnati |
| 45 | 801 | 97 | UT | Salt Lake City |
| 46 | 314 | 95 | MO | St. Louis |
| 47 | 407 | 93 | FL | Orlando |
| 48 | 718 | 92 | NY | New York City |
| 49 | 813 | 88 | FL | Tampa |
| 50 | 613 | 87 | ON | Ottawa |

INTERNET UUCP Host List

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| BBN Technology Services NEARnet 10 Moulton Street Cambridge, MA 02138 Voice# (617)873-8730 Fax# (617)873-5620 (internet) nearnet-join@nic.near.net | \$2,890 year \$1,000 registration fee | IDS World Network 3 Franklin Rd East Greenwich, RI 02818 Voice# (401)885-6855 Fax# N/A (internet) info@ids.com | \$15 month \$80 6 months \$150 year |
| CICNet 2901 Hubbard Street Ann Arbor, MI 48109 Voice# (313)998-6103 Fax# (313)998-6105 (internet) info@cic.net | \$35 month \$2.50 hour prime time \$2 hour non prime time \$175 registration | IMS Intercom 6418 Symposium Clinton, MD 20735 Voice# (301)856-2706 Fax# (301)856-5974 BBS# (301)856-0817 (internet) led@imssys.com | \$20 month \$30 Connect fee |
| CL2 global corp. 3390 Spottswood Ave. Memphis, TN 38111 Voice: (901)452-3388 Fax: (901)757-4050 Data: (901)327-8718 e-mail: internet.info@cl2globl.net | \$30 per year plus \$0.10 per message FTP/Telnet \$25.00 month \$1.50 per hour | InfiNet Infinite Systems PO Box 02138 Columbus, OH 43202 Voice# (614)268-9941 BBS# (614)268-3639 (internet) info@infinet.com | \$15-45 month \$15 month flat rate |
| Clark Internet Services 10600 Route 108 Ellicott City, MD 21042 Voice# (800)735-2258 Then Give the following # (410)730-9764 Fax# (410)730-9765 Data# (410)730-9786 (internet) info@clark.net | \$30 month \$264 annual \$25 registration | INTAC Access Corporation 256 Braod Ave. Palisades Park, NJ 07650 Voice: (201)944-1417 Fax: (201)944-1434 Data: (201)944-3990 finger info@intac.com | \$50 to activate \$30 month w/o newsfeed \$2.00 hour newsfeed |
| CNS Internet Express 1155 Kelly Johnson Blvd. Suite 400 Colorado Springs, CO 80920 Voice# (719)592-1240 (800)748-1200 Fax# (719)592-1201 (internet) info@cscns.com | \$10 monthly minimum \$2.75 hour \$8.00 hour 800 service \$35.00 registration | ISLAND NET Victoria, BS Voice# (604)479-7861 BBS# (604)477-5163 (internet) mark@amtsgl.bc.ca | \$2.00 hour \$75.00 setup |
| Colorado Supernet Colorado School of Mines 1500 Illinois Street Golden, CO 80401 Voice # (303)273-3471 Fax# (303)273-3475 (Internet) info@csn.org | \$3 hour \$40 registration \$15 month mininum | Maestro Technologies 29 John St New York City, NY 10038 Voice# (212)240-9600 BBS# (212)240-9700 (internet) staff@maestro.com | \$100 month \$125 setup |
| CyberGate, Inc. 662 South Military Trail Deerfield Beach, FL 33442 Voice# (305)428-4283 Fax# (305)428-7977 (Internet) info@gate.net | \$20 month includes 10 hrs \$1 hour above 10 hrs \$50 setup fee | MCSNet 3217 N. Sheffield Chicago, IL 60657 Voice# (312)248-UNIX Fax# (312)248-8649 BBS# (312)248-0900 (internet) info@mcs.com | \$2.00 hour first 5 hours \$1.00 thereafter in a calendar month \$15.00 month minimum charge. \$10.00/setup |
| Doyle Monroe Consultants 267 Cox Street Hudson, MA 01749 Voice# (508)568-1618 Fax# (508)562-1133 (internet) info@dmc.com | Free Thirty day trial period. Variety of plans starting as low as \$5 a month, will never exceed \$150 a month | Merit/MichNet 2901 Hubbard Pod G Ann Arbor, MI 48105 Voice# (313)764-9430 Fax# (313)747-3185 (internet) info@merit.edu | \$35 month \$40 registration |
| DPC Systems 537 Cloverleaf Dr. Monrovia, CA 91016 Voice# (818)305-5733 Fax# (818)305-5735 (internet) connect@dpcsys.com | \$15 Month \$2.00 hour \$25 registration | MIDnet 501 N Tenth Rm 124 Lincoln, NB 68588 Voice# (402)472-8971 Fax# (402)472-8486 (internet) cfarnham@unl.edu | \$60 month \$150 registration |
| Global Connect 497 Queens Creek Rd Williamsburg, VA 23185 Voice#: (804)229-4484 Fax#: (804)229-6557 | \$30 month No setup, no hourly | MRNet 511 11th Ave South Box 212 Minneapolis, MN 55415 Voice# (612)342-2570 Fax# (612)344-1716 (internet) dfazio@mr.net | \$55 month \$150 registration |
| Holonet 46 Shattuck Square Suite 11 Berkeley, CA 94704 Voice# (510)704-0160 fax# (510)704-8019 (internet) info@holonet.net | \$6 month \$2-4 hour \$50 registration | Neosoft, Inc 3408 Mangum Houston, TX 77092 Voice# (713)684-5969 Fax# (713)684-5922 (internet) info@neosoft.com | \$54.95 per month |
| | | Neosoft, Inc 3408 Mangum Houston, TX 77092 Voice# (713)684-5969 Fax# (713)684-5922 (internet) info@neosoft.com | \$54.95 per month |

INTERNET UUCP Host List

NJCC
P.O. Box 6909
Lawrence, NJ 08648
Voice# (609) 896-2799
Fax# (609) 896-2994
UNIX Dialups: (609) 896-3191
BBS: (609) 895-0398
(internet) info@pluto.njcc.com

\$49.95 1 time setup
\$19.95 monthly charge

PANIX
Voice# (212) 787-6160
(internet) info@panix.com

\$2 hour
\$10 month for a user
account

Pioneer Global
1770 Massachusetts Avenue #273
Cambridge, MA 02140
Voice# (617) 375-0200

\$24.95 month
No installation

RAIN
Box 2683
Santa Barbara, CA 93120
Voice# (805) 899-8610
fax# (805) 568-2299
Data# (805) 899-8600
(internet) rain@rain.org

\$50 month
\$200 registration

The Dallas Infomart
1950 Stemmens Freeway
Suite 5001
Dallas, TX 75207
Voice# (214) 746-4710
Fax# (214) 746-4856
(internet) info@onramp.net

\$79 month
\$75 Registration

The Well
27 Gate 5 Road
Sausalito, CA 94965
Voice# (415) 332-4335
Fax# (415) 332-1669
(internet) info@well.sf.ca.us

\$35 month
\$1 hour
\$50 registration

UUNET Technologies
3110 fairview park drive
falls Church, VA 22042
Voice# (800) 488-6384
fax# (703) 204-8001
(internet) info@uunet.uu.net

\$36 month
\$2.60-5.60 hour

VoiceNet/DSC
17 Richard Road
Ivyland, PA 18974
Voice# (215) 674-9290
Voice# (800) 521-2733
fax# (215) 674-9662
(internet) info@voicenet.com

Variety of services
\$35-500 setup
\$5-150 monthly fees

XNet
PO Box 1511
Lisle, IL 60532
Voice# (708) 983-6064
BBS# (708) 983-6435
(internet) info@xnet.com

\$1 hour
\$5 month minimum

ZONE 1 Network Exchange
Robert Forsythe
5800 Arlington Ave
Riverdale, NY 10471
Voice# (718) 549-8078
Fax# (718) 884-7998
(internet) info@zone.net

Variety of services
\$50-995 start up
\$1-2 hour
\$40-1290 month

Magibox
1873 Hidden Oaks Drive
Memphis, TN 38138
Voice# (901) 757-7835
Fax# (901) 757-5875
(internet) net.info@magicbox.net

\$30 year packet e-mail
\$25 annual live intnet
\$25 month/15 free hours
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With DCN's all new Windows Interface Protocol™ (WIP), created with the DC Interface Builder™, your end-users will be able to access your database with a true, all Windows™ interface. Your applications can have embedded compressed graphics, text files, sound files and more. DC Genesys can be accessed through a royalty free terminal program for DOS and Windows (Macintosh coming soon).

FEATURES

FLEXIBLE USER INTERFACE

- Complete flexibility in design of data-entry, searching, browsing and detailed viewing.
- ANSI, RIPscip & WIP graphics protocol support for all database functions (DOS & Windows Access).
- Complete entry screen validation via pick lists.
- Easily jumps from browse to detail viewing.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN SECONDS

- Support for the following image formats: JPG, CMP, PCX, BMP, TIF, TGA and GIF.

RELIABLE MULTI-USER CAPABILITIES

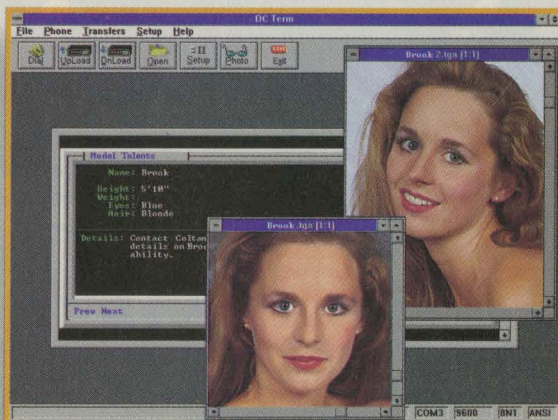
- Support for multiple users running separate copies of DC Genesys on the same computer (ie: DesqView) or on separate computers on a LAN network.
- Seamless sharing of data with concurrent dBase/FoxPro applications on the same LAN.

POWERFUL SEARCH ENGINE

- Customizable Query-By-Form as well as an "expert mode" command line.
- Relational multiple table support.

COMPLETE COMPATIBILITY

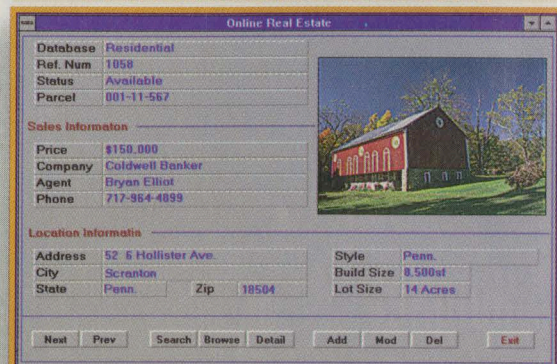
DC Genesys is 100% compatible with dBASE III PLUS, dBASE IV, or FoxPro2 file formats. DC Genesys is also relational with support for JOINS between fields in different tables.



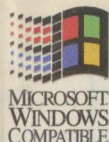
• DC Genesys as seen through DC Term for Windows emulating ANSI

Images transfer in 10-15 seconds.

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• All new Dynamic Windows Interface Protocol (WIP) by DCN

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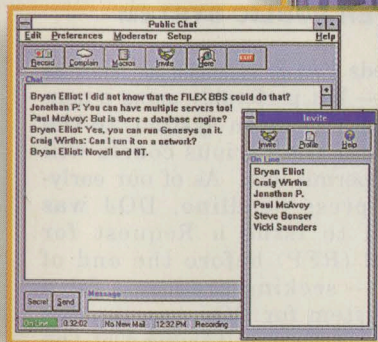
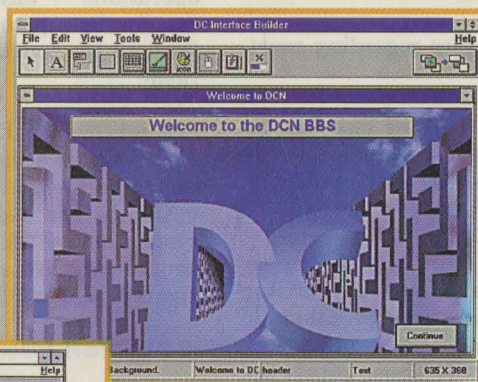
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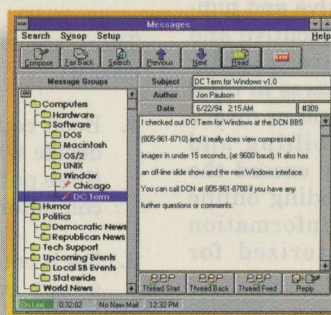
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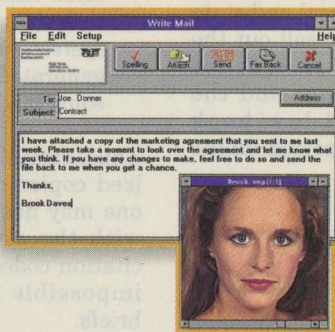
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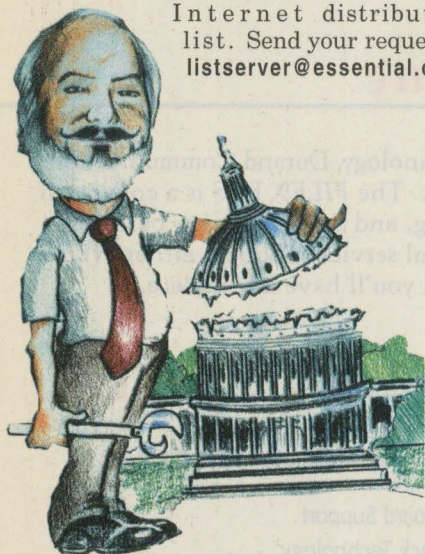


ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT

"JUSTICE(?)" CLINTON-STYLE

by Jim Warren

[This information comes from the *prodigious, diligent* efforts of James Love and Ralph Nader's Taxpayer Assets Project in Washington DC, of which Jamie is Executive Director. To remain up-to-date on this and other federal access issues — as only online updates can provide — subscribe to TAP-INFO, their free Internet distribution list. Send your request to listserv@essential.org.]



There are three branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial. State and federal executive and legislative branches are rapidly expanding online public access to their records — at cost, which often means without charge, since billing and collection costs can easily exceed the incremental cost of providing online citizen access to public information that is already computerized for internal agency use.

THE LEGAL PRIESTHOOD

However, much of the federal and state judiciaries seem content to sell out the public interest in court records for their personal convenience and the benefit of gold-plated law-book publishers and platinum-priced online legal-information services.

At a minimum, too many judges and government attorneys are willing to limit modern [online], *useful* citizen access to *our* public judicial records, only to those who can afford the services of the legal priesthood.

Perhaps, they are just arrogant and dumb about their obsolescence.

There is a long, cozy relationship between the courts and the law-book publishers that organize and publish court decisions. And some of those legal publishers are heavily involved in computerizing court records, for print-publication as well as making them available online — to those who have O. J. Simpson legal budgets. Understandably, they would like to remain the only online sources of those records.

When print publication was the only option for distributing court records, the coziness was reasonable — but no longer.

Court records are public records, except for the very few that are sealed by judicial order. And court decisions, including those that form the massive body known as "case law," are almost-invariably prepared using computers. The same is true for trial transcripts and most briefs submitted by most attorneys. And there are serious proposals that attorneys be required to submit their briefs to the courts in digital form (e.g., see "Justice in the Balance, c. 2020," the December, 1993, Report of the Commission on the Future of the California Courts, Supreme Court of California, San Francisco California 94107).

There are two ringers regarding court records:

1. Each court is more or less free to decide whether to provide copies of these public records to the public in computerized form.
2. Each court is more or less free to adopt whatever case-citation system they wish, requiring that all briefs filed with that court reference case-law by those citation-codes. And the traditional citation systems are one or another of those generated — and *copyrighted!* — by some law-book publisher.

Thus, even if one can obtain computerized copies of public judicial records, one may not be able to circulate them with the essential, court-mandated citation codes included, thus making it impossible to use them to prepare briefs.

BOARDWATCH COLUMNIST TO RECEIVE HUGH HEFNER FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

The Playboy Foundation has announced that Jim Warren, who is our government-access columnist, will receive the Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Award in the Government category, for his ongoing work to open online citizen access to government, and his efforts to assure that civil liberties and privacy protections remain robust in cyberspace.

The award will include a specially-designed plaque and a check for \$5,000, presented at a November 16th luncheon ceremony in New York City's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

In the federal justice system, this problem came to a head last year. West Publishing — which had been selling the Department of Justice computer copies of federal case-law, along with computer-assisted legal-research services (CALR), for ten years of the Reagan and Bush administrations — decided to cut 'em off.

First, this left DOJ without computer copies of the last ten years of federal case law that were essential for CALR operations — until such time as DOJ can dredge up copies of all the cases from all the courts and re-computerize them.

Second, even if DOJ re-computerized what they've been paying West for ten years to use, many federal courts mandate the use of West's citation system, and West zealously defends its proprietary ownership of those copyrighted page and line-numbers.

A PROPER PUBLIC SYSTEM

DOJ needs CALR services as soon as possible — but preferably using a non-proprietary citation system, to the extent that the various courts will deign to permit one. As of our early-August press deadline, DOJ was expected to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) before the end of August — seeking proposals for a CALR system for DOJ, presumably including re-computerizing of the missing years of federal case-law.

But Carl Levin, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, wrote an August 16th letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, stating in part:

"This RFP has been the subject of discussion among members of your staff, the public interest community, legal librarians, legal publishers, and other interested parties. I believe that issuance of the RFP should be delayed in order to permit the Department to consult further with knowledgeable parties and to reconsider its requirements.

"My concerns about the planned RFP are two-fold. First, I understand that, as currently drafted, only one or two vendors will be able to bid on the RFP. This lack of significant competition, especially in an area of burgeoning innovation and entrepreneurship such as computer services, is troubling on its face.

"In addition, I am concerned that in attempting to meet the immediate legal research needs of its staff, the Department is ignoring other important factors such as the public's interest in the ownership of and access to the federal statutes and case law created by the government at taxpayer's expense.

"New computer technologies make it practical for courts, the Bar, and the public to access legal information efficiently without the use of traditional sources — printed books. Greater electronic dissemination of federal legal materials is blocked, however, by the lack of a data base and a citation system in the public domain. Under the old JURIS system, the Department "rented" rather than "owned" its electronic data base of federal law, and the planned RFP would continue that arrangement.

"In contrast, if the Department were to own the data base, it could make it available to the public, including commercial interests who could reformat it, develop search technologies, etc., and compete to sell the enhanced data to legal researchers.

"Moreover, estimates by people knowledgeable about computer services indicate that ownership of the data base would be cost-effective for the Department."

COPYRIGHTED NUMBERS

Levin's letter to Reno continued, "Even if the Department were to own

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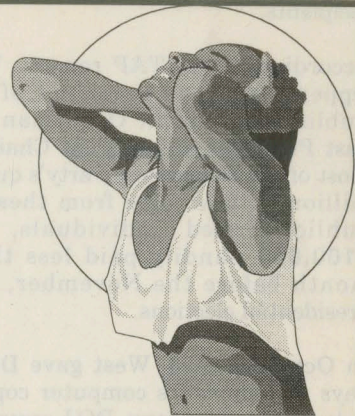
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its electronic data base of federal law, a major hurdle would still remain to making the material more accessible to the public because the current, widely-accepted citation system — relying on volume and page numbers — is the copyrighted material of one publisher [West Publishing].

"Several states and the Sixth [Federal] Circuit have taken steps to establish a public domain citation system that would be "medium neutral" and "vendor neutral" — i.e., that would work with books or computer technology and would not favor any particular publisher. The planned RFP does not take into account the desirability of such a public domain citation system.

"I believe that, when exercising its considerable purchasing power, the government should consider not only its immediate needs as a consumer but also broader issues such as encouraging competition and increasing public access to government information. "Accordingly, it would be appropriate for the Department to delay its planned RFP in order to engage in

further consultation and to consider the issues of public ownership and a neutral citation system."

BELTWAY BANDITS?

The special interests inside the roadway that circles Washington DC known as the Beltway, are often called "Beltway bandits." They shower millions of dollars on federal office-holders and then receive billions of dollars of government-generated benefits, usually at huge tax-payer expense. Could the following be an example?

According to TAP research released in mid-August, individuals affiliated with West Publishing paid **\$738,728** in political "contributions" during the three election cycles beginning in 1989. This included more than **\$500,000** paid to candidates, **\$229,250** paid to the Democratic Party and **\$148,572** paid directly to members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committee — which have jurisdiction over the DOJ, the federal court system, and antitrust and copyright law.

The August 16th online TAP report details amounts, dates, payees and recipients.

According to the TAP report: Vance Opperman is the President of West Publishing; Dwight Opperman is its past President and current Chairman. Most of the Democratic Party's quarter-million dollars came from these two public-spirited individuals, with **\$100,000** handily paid less than a month before the November, 1992, presidential elections.

In October, 1993, West gave DOJ 90 days to remove its computer copies of federal case-law from DOJ computers. In January, 1994, DOJ shut down its CALR system that had depended on that case-law. A few weeks later, Vance Opperman became one of 17 CEOs appointed to the new National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council. In March, 1994, he paid another **\$25,000** to the Democratic National Committee.

The House members who received the highest pay from West-related payees, according to TAP, include:

- **Martin Sabo (D-MN)**, Chair, Budget Committee, **\$18,470**.
- **Jack Brooks (D-TX)**, Chair, House Judiciary, **\$17,500**.
- **John Conyers (D-MI)**, Chair, House Committee on Government Operations, **\$17,262**.
- **Patricia Schroeder (D-CO)**, Member, Subcommittee on Economic and Commercial Law, **\$12,500**.
- **Richard Gephardt (D-MO)**, House Majority leader, **\$9,999**.
- **Hamilton Fish Jr. (R-NY)**, Ranking Republican, **\$6,000**.

On the Senate side, **47%** of all the West-related payments that TAP listed for Senate Judiciary Committee members went to a single California Senator, with major loot going to several others:

- **Diane Feinstein (D-CA)**, member of committees on copyrights, technology and the law, and rules and administration, **\$27,000**.
- **Al Gore Jr.**, now Vice President, **\$21,691**.
- **Howell Heflin (D-AL)**, Chair, Subcommittee on Courts and Administrative Practices, and a member of other committees concerned with antitrust, monopolies, business rights and copyrights, **\$11,000**.
- **Arlen Specter (R-PA)**, Ranking Republican, Subcommittee on Technology and the Law and a member

of the committee on antitrust and monopolies, **\$4,000**.

Three of the West-related contributors also paid **\$2,300** to the Committee to Draft Ralph Nader for President, in 1991-1992.

Your government at work. (Whose government?)

SPEAK UP OR SHUT UP!

Each of us can either do nothing, and let the "important" people inside the Beltway continue to wheel and deal with our tax-funds and our public records, or alternatively, we can express our opinions on these matters — now! — to the President and Vice President who are continuing their campaigns for re-election, to our federal Representative and Senators, to the Chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, to each of the judges in our region's federal courts, to the presidents of our county and state bar associations, and to the woman that many of us once held in high regard:

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
10th Street and Constitution Ave NW
Washington DC 20530

[Warren, 345 Swett Rd., Woodside CA 94062; jwarren@well.com, received the 1994 James Madison Freedom-of-Information Award from the Society of Professional Journalists - Northern California for helping open online access to government, and is pushing to put campaign-finance disclosures freely online. He received the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Pioneer Award in its first year; founded **InfoWorld** and the Computers, Freedom & Privacy conferences; was founding host of PBS' television's "Computer Chronicles," and founding Editor of **Dr. Dobb's Journal**.

He began working as a programmer in 1968 after ten years teaching mathematics, holds three graduate degrees in computing and mathematics and has taught computing at various universities including Stanford.]

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| Programmable | Yes | No | Extra | Extra | Extra |
| Multiple command shells | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Intelligent DigiBoard | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Int14h device support | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |
| Standard serial ports | Up to 10 | No | Up to 4 | Up to 2 | Up to 2 |
| Caller ID security | Yes | No | Extra | Extra | No |
| Nested security logic | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Multichannel chat | Yes | Extra | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Private user chat | Yes | No | Extra | Yes | Yes |
| Offline reader support | Yes | Yes | Extra | Yes | Extra |
| QWK networking | Yes | Yes | Extra | No | Yes |
| FidoNet import/export | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| PostLink (RIME) support | Yes | Extra | Yes | Extra | No |
| Includes RIPscrip menus | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Novell/DOS LAN support | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Enhanced CD-ROM support | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Incoming FAX support | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Chat between doors | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| Bidirectional file transfers | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| DOS door support | 11 types | 2 types | 2 types | No | No |
| FILE_ID.DIZ support | Yes | Extra | Yes | Yes | No |
| Offline NetMail | Yes | Yes | Extra | No | Yes |
| Offline/Remote file requests | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Real-time configuration | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |

Features and prices compiled from vendor supplied information 2/94, are subject to change without notification. Wildcat!IM, PCBoard/M, MajorBBS, TBBS, QWK, FidoNet, PostLink, RIME, RIPscrip, Novell, and DOS are trademarks or their respective companies. Third party utilities may be required for some message network technologies.
*for 8 nodes Wildcat!IM requires a 250 node license, PCBoard/M requires a 10 node license, TBBS requires a 16 node license.

If you haven't checked out Synchronet yet, crank up your modem and download a demo. There isn't a faster, more feature rich BBS available anywhere from anyone. Synchronet combines the robust interactive nature of a multiuser BBS with the speed, power and flexibility of a multinode system.

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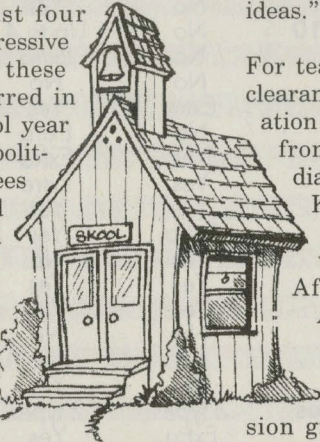
EDUCATION LINK

KIDLINK: GLOBAL DIALOG FOR KIDS, 10-15

EDUCATORS HAVE AN INTERESTING OPPORTUNITY

by Rea Andrew Redd

KIDLINK, a grassroots organization, has enabled 23,000 children from 62 countries to enter a global dialog over the past four years. What is impressive is that over half of these conversations occurred in the 1993-1994 school year alone. There is no political agenda and no fees of any type. A child aged 10-15, need only answer four questions in English or their native language.



Question #1:

Who am I?

What is my full name? How old am I? Am I male or female? In what city and country do I live? What is the name of my school?

Question #2: What do I want to be when I grow up? What is my vision of what I want to be when I grow up in terms of work, education, and in general?

Question #3: How do I want the world to be better when I grow up? How would I like to improve the way we treat each other? How would I like to improve the environment we all share?

Question #4: What can I do now to make this happen? What steps can I take now to realize my personal goals? What steps can I take now to realize my vision of the world in which I want to live?

The responses are sent by e-mail to: **RESPONSE@VM1.NODAK.EDU**

A teacher in Italy enjoys the increase in positive teacher/student interactions arising from KIDLINK; he finds that students now pursue the English teachers through the halls to translate the mail and to help compose responses. A Danish educator seconds that obser-

vation and adds that current events/global problems have now become personalized for his students. A New York State teacher finds her students take the four questions quite seriously and respond in an honest fashion; she overhears her students discussing their futures and how they can puzzle out solutions to their questions. She also comments, "The kids who are excited can get reinforcement; the kids who are depressed or have a negative outlook can get a dose of . . . a different perspective and good, positive ideas."

For teachers who need administrative clearance, KIDLINK's articles of association and policies are easily available from the menu; its sole purpose is dialog among the world's kids. The KIDLINK board consists of one representative for each of six world geographic areas: Europe, Africa, Asia, Pacific, North America, Central/South America.

KIDLINK has a electronic newsletter, an informal discussion group, KIDCAFE, and a formal research discussion group, KIDFORUM. Both are in five languages: Portuguese, Spanish, Japanese, English and a mixture of Scandinavian languages. Heated discussion topics on 'cafe' and 'forum' this spring were chocolate and architecture. The current topic on the forum is, A Random Act of Kindness, it includes descriptions and presentations of missed opportunities and the recording of impulsive acts. KIDCAFE provides a forum where KEYPALS can pair off for private discussions. But where else can real conversations take place? At a party, of course! KIDLINK celebrated its fourth birthday during a three day fest, May 5, 6, and 7 in 18 countries held at 73 sites, where 3,100 students electronically partied.

One part of KIDLINK information service is a multi-user, multi-channel chatting net called KIDLINK IRC, which is a small, isolated IRC net. Also, a subject-oriented menu system GOPHER runs on an IBM RT computer at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; the focus of the information found on this server is the KIDLINK series of projects, which are intended to help kids get involved in a global dialog through e-mail and other telecommunication exchanges.

KIDLINK is sponsored by universities, church organizations, private individuals, and corporations; of course the organizational board is always prospecting for additional donors. They have a wish list, which includes upgrading the basic KIDLINK organization to ensure continuity from year-to-year, a special outreach coordinator for Africa, Asia, and Central/South America, a coordinator for creative challenge student exhibitions and prizes for the winners, a video recruitment tool, general curriculum development in integrating KIDLINK into a variety of subject disciplines, and an annual KIDLINK conference sponsorship.

To join KIDLINK through the Internet, send the command **SUB KIDLINK** (your name) to **LISTSERV@VM1.NODAK.EDU**; put the command in the body of the text. The gopher site for KIDLINK is: **kids.citt.duq.edu**.

MEMO FROM THE 'DOWN IN THE TRENCHES' DEPARTMENT RE: SETTING UP A HIGH SCHOOL BBS, STUDENT LED

Student leaders of MHS-BBS of Mamaroneck High in Mamaroneck New York, a suburb of New York City, are learning the ins and outs and the ups and downs of the BBS world as they stretch to meet their late September/early October startup goal. Robert Spier and Scott Brown, recovering from their exertions during the spring semester in generating a class yearbook on disk, are now hard at work finalizing an Internet e-mail and news connection, and expanding the high school's FidoNet connection. Plans are to join with a school in Germany via FidoNet in a mixed language experiment. For an honest response to FAQs concerning the set-up of a high school BBS, send questions and words of encouragement to **Robert.Spier@ACCBBS.COM**

WELCOME A (B)BOARD(S)!

Gene Lott, Program Coordinator for the Education Native American Network (ENAN), announced the broadcast of TBBS BBS on the Internet. Currently, ENAN's system has an Internet feed through a Unix host; Lott operates a 32-line TBBS system, accessed through a bank of toll-free numbers. The purpose of the ENAN BBS is to aid the Bureau of Indian affairs and its Office of Indian

Education Programs (OIEP) in the dissemination of technology through OIEP schools. He requests aid from all interested parties (individuals/educators) who regularly use K12Net, FredNet and other such education oriented telecommunication networks. E-mail your true life experiences to GENEL.@ENAN.UNM.EDU or pick up the phone and dial **505-277-0396**. Gene also reads his snail mail: Gene Lott, ENAN Project Coordinator, Room B-88, Student Services Center, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1231.

PUBLIC EDUCATION GETS A LITTLE MORE PUBLIC IN SOUTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

An expansion project of the RECA foundation will place public education/public access terminals (kiosks) in 14 high-traffic places such as the local Washington State University campus, public libraries, senior centers, and chambers of commerce. Free Internet access, information services such as the National Public Telecomputing Network (NPTN) K-12 Academy One programs, NPTN News Service which includes USA Today, the Washington Post, Forbes Magazine, et al., and e-mail will be available. The RECA Foundation is a Washington based nonprofit organization which offers information dissemination through the Tri-Cities On-Line Service. The cities of Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco are each benefiting from the Tri-Cities FreeNet, a free access, community owned and operated public information service operated by the RECA Foundation. Ronda Evans, President of the RECA Foundation worked in the field of geriatrics, death and dying counseling and estate planning before entering the BBS world through the Tri-Cities OnLine Service. Her initial effort brought online services to seniors with FAQs about wills, living trusts, inventory of possessions, durable power of attorney and funeral arrangements.

A partnership between NPTN, TCI Cablevision, and local corporations will provide the kiosks under the direction of RECA. Would you like to make public education a little more accessible in your home town? Contact the RECA Foundation via your modem: **509-375-1111**, via your telephone (finger driven): **509-375-3548**, or via snail mail: RECA Foundation, 2950 George Washington Way, Richland, WA 99352.

[Rea Andrew Redd lives and works in southwestern Pennsylvania. He holds masters degrees in library science and history. Presently, he teaches Euro-

pean history, Scholastic Aptitude Test preparation, and directs the library of a private school. E-mail Rea at: REDD@GENESIS.DUQ.EDU]

Sample KIDLINK files

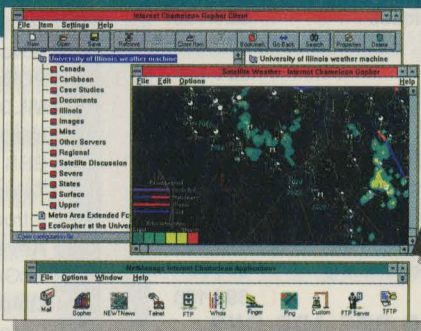
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Practical tips about using KIDLINK
Lists sponsors
The four questions explained
KIDLINK people to ask for help
KIDLINK organization overview
How to get a copy of KIDSHOW
Countries in KIDLINK
National flags of participating countries
KIDLINK bibliography
Request for translation help
KIDS-94 electronic newsletter #4
Specific instructions for using search tools
Student produced nature drawings from Russia
Student produced architectural and astronomical from N.J.
Student produced birthday cards from Denmark
Discussion group in the Spanish language
Discussion group in Scandinavian languages
Discussion group in the Portuguese language
Discussion group in the Japanese language
Discussion group in the Russian language

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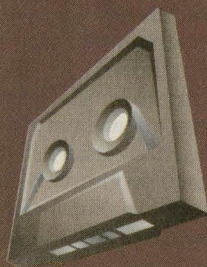
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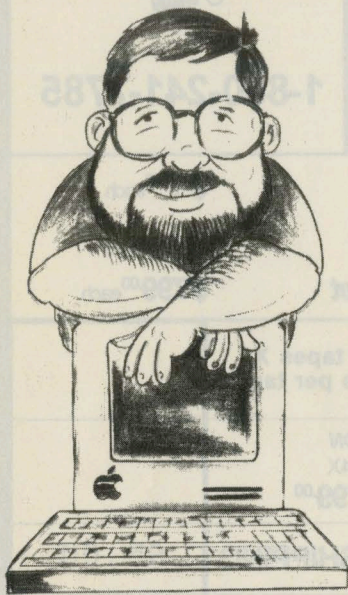


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MACINTOSH NEWS

VENDOR ROUNDUP



by Bill Gram-Reefer

Here's a roundup of summer news from BBS and telecom product vendors in alphabetical order by height:

ASCENT SOLUTIONS INC. (ASI) has released a new iteration of PKZIP for the Mac. PKZIP Mac, is a Macintosh version compatible with the widely used data compression utility pretty much standard in the DOS world. During its introduction, PKZIP Mac is specially priced at **\$54.95**.

Ideal for work situations requiring cross-platform file transfers that can handle a variety of file formats, ASI claims that the product compresses most data 50-90 percent through an advanced deflation algorithm. Features include 100-percent PKWare patented technology and total compatibility with PKZIP DOS 2.04; 32-bit CRC error checking to ensure data integrity, and full PKZIP data encryption implementation. ASI creates, sells, and supports data compression software for customers around the world for companies, governments, and educational institutions. They also support compatible compression products for AS/400, DOS, MVS, UNIX, and Windows.

At this time there is no free client that can be used strictly for unzipping files ala Compact Pro and Stuffit, but there are plans for such a blade to help sell the razors. For product information contact **Ascent Solutions Inc.**; 10460

Miamisburg-Springboro Pike, Dayton, OH 45342; **(513) 885-2031** voice; **(813) 885-2032** fax; or **(513) 885-2033** data.

THE FREESOFT COMPANY, maker of White Knight Telecommunications Software for Macintosh has announced version 12 of the venerable communications program for Macintosh. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the product, Freesoft is shipping version 12 at the same price as version 11, **\$139**. Upgrades from version 11 are **\$40**; Version 10 users can upgrade for **\$55**, while upgrades from still earlier versions are **\$65**. This goes way back!

Claiming over 100 new features, White Knight now includes support for System 7 and Pro, and Power Macs, support for Apple's Communications ToolBox, File Transfer Manager, and even third-party NuBus and SCSI serial devices. New terminal emulations include support for VT200, VT220, TeleVideo 912, 920, and 925, and full support for PC-ANSI color screens, and implementation of CompuServe's Quick-B file transfer protocol. The product includes a 280+ command Procedure Language with the ability to manipulate editor windows, play sounds, compress files, create batch files from folder contents, stuff files, and support AppleEvents and AppleScript. BASIC programs can also run in conjunction with White Knight.

A lot of attention was given to enhancements of the interface as well. Users will find a restructured menu bar and a floating window for the macro editor. The status bar has also been enhanced to add shortcuts for changing settings files and terminal emulations. Freesoft also publishes a BBS construction system software for Macintosh, version 3.0 of Second Sight was released in January of 1993.

Contact **The Freesoft Company** at 105 McKinley Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010; **(412) 846-2700** voice; **(412) 847-4436** fax.

INTERCON has released Worldlink version 2.0 for Macintosh, which adds the ability to read and post to newsgroups and hefty new administrative functions to its all-in-one package that combines an Internet address, integrated automated client software, access to Internet mail and FTP for one low-ish monthly fee. I like this well-documented on-ramp software and service, it is a solid piece of work that

takes (almost) all of the pain out of learning how to get on on the super-duper information highway without getting lost or run over.

The basic features of WorldLink provide easy configuration where you select your port, modem setup, number to dial, and password entry. Write your messages and respond to previous mail, fill in the blanks for FTP file transfer, and hit OK. The program automatically dials the service number, logs you onto der net, sets up the stream, processes your outgoing and incoming mail, and sends your FTP request for download during a subsequent call. All the while, little windows show the progress of your call, what the program is doing, and then, when all of the tasks are completed, it logs you off. Then you can read your mail, news, etc.

A new feature lets you participate in the thousands of newsgroups available on the Internet. New administrative features let you sort messages globally or individually, archiving and sorting messages is supported, and background color is also now user selectable. You can even direct the program to highlight messages by key word to help you wade through the morass of low-level content that, at this time, is the desert that is the Internet, dotted as it is with too few meaningful oases of valuable information.

Prices for WorldLink vary according to the type of service you subscribe to. **\$9/month** gets you up to 2400-bps access but no newsgroups. This is the Lite service, which also provides a 9600-bps option for **\$19/month**. Basic Service, which includes newsgroups starts at **\$19** for 2400-bps links and **\$29/month** for 9600-bps. Wireless and Class-B dialup options are also available for additional fees.

There are some shortcomings to WorldLink. First, the FTP function is limited and daunting for beginners, who may have no clue what those slashes mean in host addresses, and don't even know where to call to find a file. Referring such babes to ARCHIE is not very user friendly. But on the other hand, since it's near impossible to log onto Sumex-aim these days, having the ability to place your FTP order for receipt at a later time, takes some frustration out of the process.

I have found programs such as Fetch easier to work with since you can select the host name and actually see the folder directory structure and roam around the site to browse. Of course this means having your own shell account with SLIP capabilities from a provider like Holonet or Netcom (a shell account is like basic cable; adding SLIP is like adding a converter box on top of the basic cable so you can get programming delivered in a different way, in this case, a program with some semblance of a Mac graphical user interface). These accounts can be found for around \$19/month for 14.4-bps access with a small hourly fee for the SLIP service.

Secondly, I don't care for the lack of flexibility of what account name is assigned to you; like who wants to be known as **WK05156@worldlink.com**. No panache at all. But, I've more recently reconsidered, since such a bizarre naming scheme can provide a level of anonymity for those who crave such a luxury.

Thirdly, with the newsgroups, you'll be hampered by the fact that you'll spend a long time downloading each newsgroup message in every group you subscribe to, rather than being able to pick and choose from messages and browsing topics. At 2,400, this could be a drag unless you learn to live with it and schedule your sessions to start as you go do the dishes or walk the dogs.

Finally, since WorldLink connections are made through the PSI network, you're stuck with the availability of phone numbers provided by that service. For instance, WorldLink is

almost useless for anyone living in the East Bay of Northern California. There are no 510 area-code numbers for local access! So users in Berkeley, Oakland, Walnut Creek, and Honk-Heaven must call long distance (415, 408) to get their mail. This is not a good thing. I have complained about this shortcoming to Intercon on numerous instances only to be told that, "well, we can't control that, they'll add lines in that area soon..." But otherwise, tech support was very helpful, like the time some knucklehead thought I'd want to download his 3Mb settings file without asking, so I asked tech support to zap it.

I now also have a Netcom account (with WorldLink as a backup) where connections are local toll-free calls. But, then most of my time is waiting for a connection to Netcom itself or the mail server, which has proved as frustrating as WorldLink's long-distance calls were expensive. Typical conversation here is, "well we're sorry it takes so long for you to connect, but your Walnut Creek, California number is used for overload from Marin County, since we haven't been able to predict or keep up with the demand, and blah blah blah..."

But, to borrow Rickard's over-used line, "that said" (or some variation), WorldLink is still worthy of consideration, particularly by the new user that wants a fixe prix introduction to the joys of internetworking. Travelers and roadsters, too, will like its ability to act as your Internet on-ramp while away from command central with the ability to select an access number from wherever.

Just be sure they service your local area, take it easy on the newsgroups, learn to wallow in obscurity, and be prepared to have toadies snicker at your call sign.

The BIG PICTURE? There are IP services that need a SLIP or PPP account like Fetch and Gopher. But with a 14.4 pipeline, you're really not missing much by not being able to play with Mosaic. Eventually, Macintosh users should get an account other than Worldlink if only so they can use the TCP/IP capabilities of NovaTerm, FirstClass, and TeleFinder clients that will provide ever-increasing connections to hosts reachable over the net. And when you do get a "real" account, Intercon's TCP/Connect II will be waiting, providing terminal emulation, FTP, mail, and news reader all in one package to save you the effort of procuring Apple's MacTCP, Dartmouth's Fetch, Qualcomm's Eudora, and Norstad's NewsWatcher for yourself.

Intercon, (orders) P.O. Box 592, Herndon, VA 22070; (703) 709-5520 tech support voice—ask for sales info; (703) 802-2004 fax; tech@intercon.com Internet.

A sneak preview of **RESNOVA's** new NovaLink Windows client during Mactivity indicated good progress toward being available real soon now. As Alex Hopmann explained, "this will be a real cross-platform client." One bit of evidence to prove his point, the Windows client will transfer files from Mac hosts to remote Windows users in the right ISSO file format so Windows users won't lose file information, while

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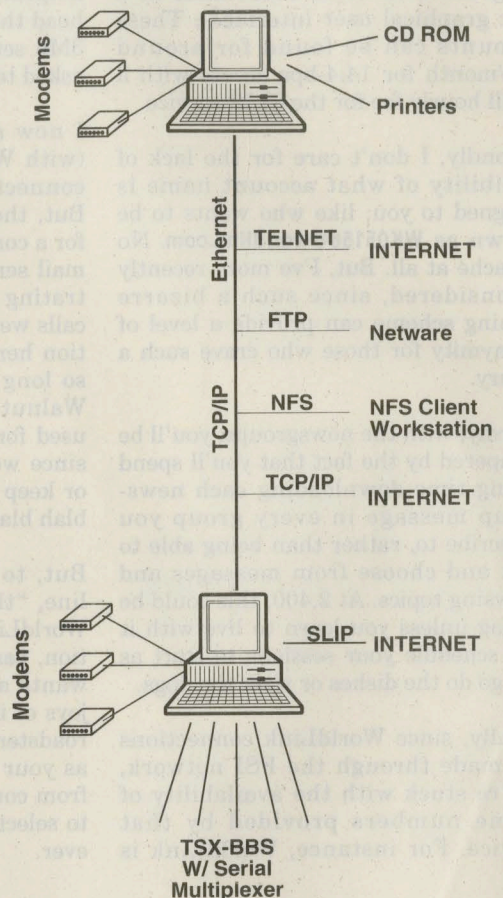
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TSX-BBS



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uploads to the Mac host will be transformed correctly - a neat touch.

Also, the splash screen for the demo included a spinning globe, not a tie-dyed Planet locked motionless in space; meaning support for QuickTime in the client! Cool, but one down side may mean having to download 5-Mb client files containing QT-enhanced graphics? We'll see these and other new features in the coming upgrade. **ResNova Software** is located at 5011 Argosy #13, Huntington Beach, CA 92649; (714) 379-9000 voice; (714) 379-9004 NovaWorld support bbs.

SOFTARC, too, announced upcoming plans for its FirstClass conferencing system during Mactivity. News culled from Scott Welch's presentation and from chit-chat on the floor includes an announcement regarding built-in TCP/IP connectivity (which was demonstrated), a 30+ bug fix new release (2.51) of the Windows client by 9/94 which should also support viewing of PICT images and improve printing and color imports.

The ability to work off line is expected in the following client update which will also include mail quoting. Such cross platform font support demands a new text editor. Third parties can expect an improved developer toolkit by 9/94 to help write custom client extensions. The topic of client extensions provide opportunity for, among other things, Mosaic, WAIS or Telnet clients. A Common Ground-like viewer is slated for 10/94, no date was set for a new forms editor. A new SMTP gateway is being readied for November availability, to retail at \$1,995.

Probably the most interesting event of Mactivity, aside from the go cart races SoftArc sponsored, was Scott Welch's explanation and defense of its corporate policy to allow only a SoftArc-logo login screen, refusing compromise on the current policy of \$995 so sysops could have a customized login screen installed at the factory.

Please note that SoftArc Inc. has moved to brand new digs. The company's new contact information is 100 Allstate Parkway, Markham, Ontario CANADA L3R 6H3; (905) 415-7000 voice; (905) 415-7151 fax; (905) 415-7070 SoftArc Online; Its order line remains unchanged at 1-800-364-1923.

Meanwhile **SPIDER ISLAND SOFTWARE**, in September began shipping version 3.5 of TeleFinder Group

Edition BBS software. The upgrade adds server-to-server gateways supporting multi-hop, Internet domain-name based messaging. Spider Island's NetConnect TCP, a \$295 connection tool allows hosts to easily make TCP/IP links to the net while the client portion of NetConnect is bundled with TF/User, the freely distributable client program that comes with TeleFinder Group Edition, and is also included in TeleFinder Pro, Spider Island's full-featured shareware terminal emulation package. Additionally, ISDN and X.25 connections via the Communication Toolbox are now built in, and improved support for Windows users was added including the ability to create threads, printing and interface enhancements, and a status bar.

Full-text searching using AppleSearch now comes standard. On hosts that contain an AppleSearch server mounted as a volume, TeleFinder clients will be able to search the volume using the Find feature built into the Mac and Windows client software. The company will also begin shipping a UUCP gateway that manages Internet Mail and News.

To retail at \$425, TeleFinder Version 3.5 contains both Macintosh 680X0 and Power Macintosh binaries of the BBS software, including the host and administrative modules. Upgrades from previous versions purchased prior to July 1 are \$95. Suggested retail price for the UUCP gateway is \$200. Spider Island will also support the formation of TFNET, a TeleFinder-based network linking hundreds of TeleFinder systems to share files, conferences, mail, and chat over the Internet. Based in Irvine, California, **Spider Island Software** can be reached by voice at (714) 669-9260. Support BBS is (714) 730-5785.

*[Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of **WORLDVIEW**, specializing in connectivity and communications. Bill has been writing about Macintosh computers since 1984. E-mail Bill at: reefer@netcom.com]*

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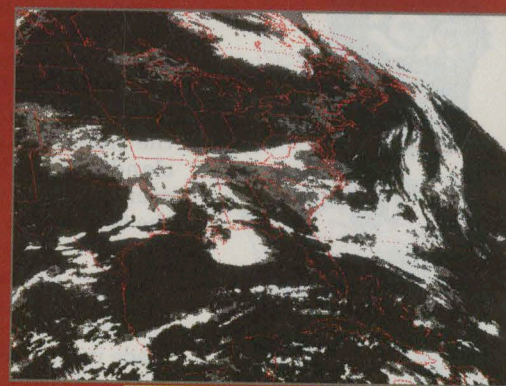
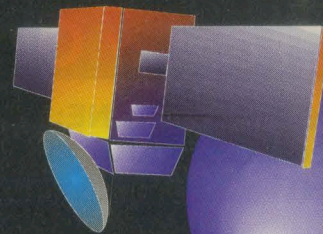
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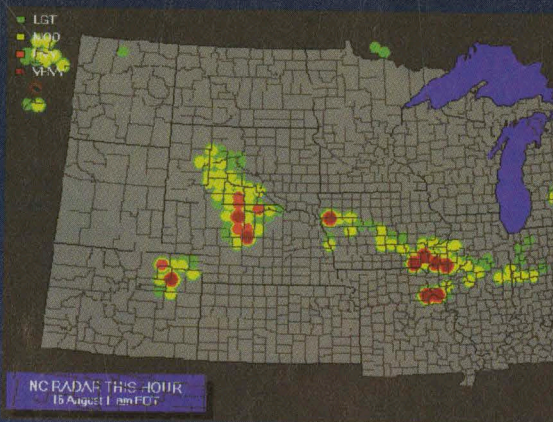
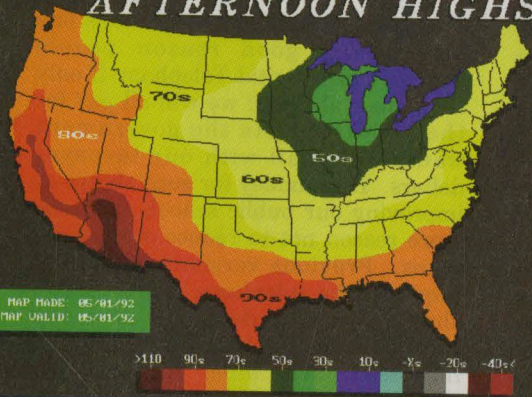
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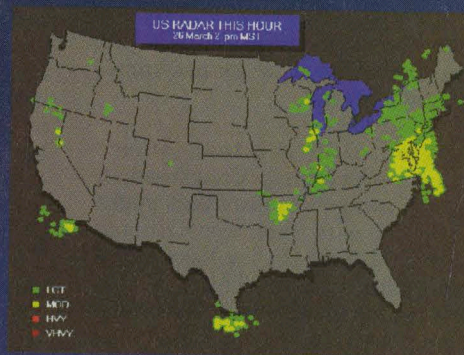
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LEGALLY ONLINE

A TAP ON EVERY PHONE: THE DREAM OF EVERY FBI AGENT



by Lance Rose

Wiretapping is illegal. So why is there a bill pending in Congress to make federal wiretaps as easy as turning on the kitchen faucet? Even stranger: why does nearly everyone on Capitol Hill think this bill, known affectionately as "Digital Telephony" (and officially as H.R. 4922 and S. 2375), was a done deal while still in committee? Digital Telephony's known constituency begins and ends with the FBI and the Justice Department, numbering between them a measly few thousand citizens led by career politicians entranced by the game of cops and robbers. What about the rest of the American public? Will we, in our hundreds of millions, get a chance to weigh in on possibly the most privacy-invasive legislation ever imposed in this country? Unless we all act immediately, probably not.

Washington, D.C. is a town where votes mean everything. Congressmen usually shy away from laws that might be unpopular with their constituents back home, at least if they have ambitions for another term. Think of bills to raise tax rates. Digital Telephony has the potential to be nearly as unpopular.

In a nutshell, Digital Telephony would require all telephone companies to develop and install wiretapping jacks in all their switches. Any time a government agent shows up at the phone company office with a judge's order permitting them to eavesdrop on

someone's line, they can jack right in, no sweat. What's the problem with that? Only this: we already have a federal law in place pointing the other way. The Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) says government wiretapping is so awful it is flatly illegal, except in those rare cases that a judge can be convinced a wiretap is absolutely necessary to help investigate a crime. The ECPA is more than just a law. It embodies and symbolizes the American public's abhorrence of clandestine wiretapping, keenly felt ever since the abuses of Watergate in the 60s.

The new Digital Telephony bill seems drafted by folks blissfully ignorant of the meaning of ECPA. The ECPA made it real hard to get wiretap orders. Digital Telephony, focusing on making the actual wiretap real easy, reduces the ECPA's protection from a fortress of personal privacy rights to a pesky formality.

Available indicators are pretty scarce for a bill as underpublicized as Digital Telephony. It seems, nonetheless, that the public would not be very happy with this law. The last privacy-invasive government agenda explained to the public was the justly maligned Clipper chip. Clipper is a device that enables people to encrypt their telephone discussions, but with a trap door allowing the government easily to find out what was so important they encrypted it. Polls on the public's opinion of Clipper revealed no support, but plenty of loathing of a government that wants to peek into every corner of peoples' lives. Clipper has also been attacked in the press, and in public relations and related legislation by various high-tech industry groups. Digital Telephony, like Clipper, is really just a piece of the larger project of seeking to turn the U.S. into a "surveillance state." For that reason, it could well be regarded as equally loathsome by the public (What else goes into the recipe for a surveillance state? How about personal identity cards, placed on the national agenda by our friends in charge of this country's immigration policy?).

You can also take your own informal poll, guaranteed to entertain. Ask your friends if they ever heard of Clipper and Digital Telephony, and ask what they think of these government agendas. Chances are slim that they heard of both. Even if they heard of Clipper, they probably know little

more than that some people are saying it's a bad thing. Now, explain both Digital Telephony and Clipper to them, and emphasize that they are both part of a larger design by certain law enforcement agencies to reduce our zone of electronic privacy to zero. If your audience is anything like mine, their eyes will widen as they perceive the connection between distant beltway shenanigans and their dwindling hopes of privacy on their own phone lines, culminating in the only rational response: a grunt of disgust. And if they are Democrats, you may find them wondering if Bill and Al were always this creepy, or they just got that way after rolling into the White House and the confidences of our chief spook agencies.

Whoops, almost forgot — there is one last, really good reason people wouldn't like Digital Telephony if only they knew about it: we will all pay for the digital spigots the government wants to install with our taxpayer dollars. Less money for such things as improving our public schools, and one more reason not to reduce our federal taxes. Previous versions of the bill required the telephone companies to shoulder the burden. Big deal, the public would still pay through increased phone bills. Any way you slice it, the big project of giving the government the ability to wiretap with ease costs real money. Estimates right now range from a low of \$500 million (the optimistic law enforcement projection) to several billion dollars. Who better to pay that bill than you and me, the eventual targets of the very surveillance power we're being asked to fund? Hey, I've got an idea - take every dollar for this project out of the existing funding for the FBI and our other intelligence agencies. Nah, that makes too much sense.

Building in easy wiretap access has another implication down the road. All future telephone network and switching development would need to take account of the government's desire to eavesdrop anywhere it wants. No one can predict what effect this requirement might have on the direction of future technologies. It's a skewing influence, though. A free market encourages development of communications technologies that make it easier for people and providers to send and receive information. A wiretap-access rule, on the other hand, always brings the issue of eavesdrop-readiness to the fore, forcing tradeoffs

against optimal information transmission solutions. Costing more of our gross national product to achieve network efficiencies, bringing to the fore the question of what is our society's goal: social progress, or voyeurism by our supposed protectors in government? Perhaps to some of our elected representatives and their civil service comrades, these two propositions are one and the same. Not to me.

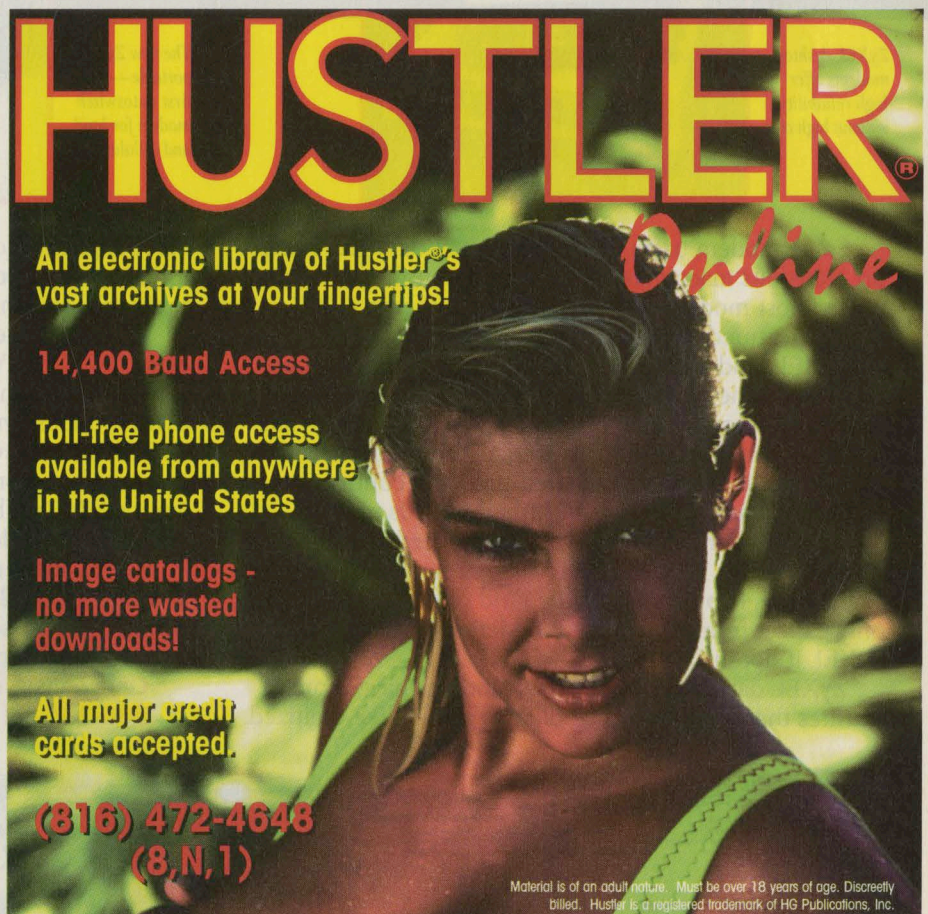
Digital Telephony does have its supporters, law-and-order types like the FBI. How do they justify this law? They complain to Congressmen that they can't execute court-authorized wiretapping orders any more, because the technologies used to carry discussions are too hard to tap into. For the past few months, they've been saying they can document 100 or more instances where their agents came up croppers on wiretap attempts. Lately the number seems to have crystallized: 183 documented failures at executing court-authorized wiretaps. Supposedly documented, actually: the FBI refuses to disclose publicly any descriptions of the failed wiretap attempts. We're supposed to assume, it seems, that disclosing such information to the public might endanger innocents, or ruin ongoing investigations, or perhaps tip off the bad guys that certain kinds of phone calls or digital discussion are immune to federal wiretaps. And of course, we're supposed to agree that it's a given that our own government should always be able to look in on our private affairs.

Normally, we need not begrudge the FBI and Justice Department their secrecy games. Let 'em keep their little failures secret, and hopefully they will try harder to pay attention the next time one of their successful eavesdropping efforts dumps advance notice of a World Trade Center bombing in their laps. But here, we're being asked to submit to the biggest privacy-compromising technology project in history, and we're not permitted to know why it's necessary. We're not being allowed to scrutinize the 183 examples used by the FBI as support for Digital Telephony. If we could see these examples, perhaps we would all agree with the FBI. Who can say, because we don't know what the examples are. Or perhaps, a close look at the examples would show the FBI is blowing smoke. How many serious crimes were committed because of the supposed wiretap failures? In how many cases was the FBI capable of coming up with the necessary information or evidence through alternative

means? How many cases involve delay in setting up the wiretap, rather than flat inability to set it up, and in those cases, how much of the delay was based on factors having nothing to do with the wiretap effort itself? These kinds of questions need to be asked in connection with any set of examples of supposed wiretap failure touted by law enforcement. Yet we can't get started if we cannot evaluate the examples.

The FBI has used this "183 cases" ploy masterfully. They apparently filled in a few outsiders on some of these cases of wiretapping failure, most notably Senator Leahy and Representative Edwards, up to now two of the strongest forces protecting our electronic privacy rights in Congress. These politicians went behind closed doors with the FBI to see what the problem was with wiretapping, and when they emerged, they supported Digital Telephony! These guys are now helping to push Digital Telephony through Congress. How compelling — two of the main defenders of our privacy rights in this country, turned around by a demonstration that our national security apparatus is breaking down because wiretapping is getting harder.

Not in this corner. Once you get politicians in a closed room, who says the meeting has anything to do with a polite discussion of wiretapping problems? Horse trading, blackmail, calling in favors — this is the normal stuff of discussions among politicians. And at the end, they can all agree to call it a meeting where Leahy and Edwards hopped on board when they were convinced by the FBI's examples of its wiretapping woes. If any of you reading this don't like these speculations, I beg you to prove me wrong. Let's see those 183 cases. Oh, there is a little rumor floating around about the real card the FBI and Justice Department played. It seems they had the potential support of one of the more powerful demagogues in the Senate for Digital Telephony, who was prepared to ride the rough beast through Congress like some super-high-tech version of the crime bill that was just passed. Under this scenario, Edwards and Leahy signed on to shepherd a kinder, gentler version of the bill themselves, to head off the far worse law that might result by the time the demagogue was done terrorizing us all about the dangers of having a little personal privacy.



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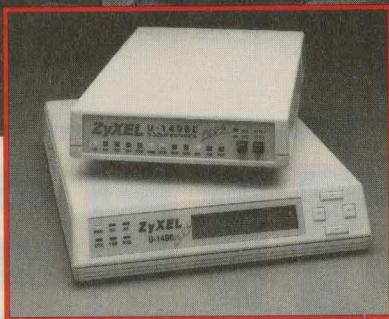
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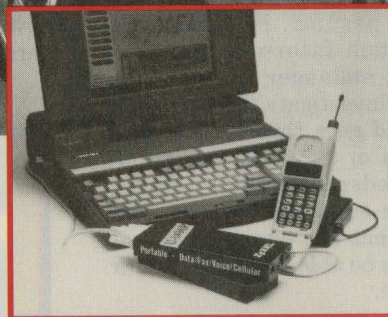
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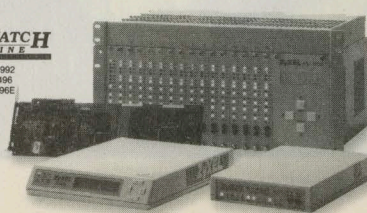
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Leahy and Edwards' sponsorship of Digital Telephony threw the Washington-based civil libertarian groups into disarray. Some, most distinctively the Electronic Frontier Foundation, chose to work with the bill and its normally privacy-friendly sponsors. In fact, Leahy invited the EFF to help shape Digital Telephony into a compromise bill that would take into account our rights to privacy. They accepted, and the resulting draft is being pitched as an acceptable compromise between the needs of law enforcement to listen in on bad guys, and the needs of the hundreds of millions of the rest of us to know big brother is not looking over our shoulders. The EFF did achieve two notable changes. First, they had some of the language of the bill changed, so it is now clear that only telephone companies and other switch operators would have to provide wiretapping facilities for the government. Before the change, it looked like a real possibility that all online services, even small bulletin boards, would also have to provide wiretapping facilities.

The other change is in the requirements for legally obtaining "call-identifying information." Under the earlier version of Digital Telephony, and in fact under the law as it exists today, government agents would have been able to obtain information on who called who (though not the contents of the discussions) under a subpoena, which is far easier to obtain than a court order. This call-identifying information can be damning, since it enables agents to find out about a person's circle of acquaintances, in widening circles of phone calls placed from person to person. For abuse potential, think how useful such information, obtained through more primitive means, was to Sen. McCarthy in the '50s. With the EFF's input, the bill was changed to require agents to obtain a court order before seeking call-identifying information, which would greatly reduce their use of this particular surveillance device.

Other Washington-Based civil liberties groups, most notably EPIC (Electronic Privacy Information Center, a successor to the Washington branch of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility), are fighting to prevent enactment of Digital Telephony in any form. For these groups, watering down Digital Telephony does nothing to combat its real threat: installing universal wiretap capabilities that can structurally transform our country into a hardwired surveillance state. This is the real goal of the bill; we must presume the FBI knew their baby would be compromised a little

before passage, and patched on some provisions as inessential break-off parts. EPIC doesn't believe Digital Telephony is a done deal, despite the feeling on the Hill, and they may be right. An earlier version of Digital Telephony was shot down in committee a couple of years ago. Perhaps, if we all sharpen up our aim a bit, this one can be brought down too.

The EPIC approach offers the choice of fighting for our rights, instead of fatalistically trying to make a bad thing less so. It appears the EFF itself is sympathetic to the EPIC position. They've stated publicly that despite their cooperation in shaping the current version of Digital Telephony, they're poised to back off it altogether and join the fight against it if it turns out the public wants no part of this law.

If you want no part of this law, you must act immediately. Tell your local Congressmen and Senators that H.R. 4922 and S.2375 must never be passed. If they don't know what you're talking about, refer to the "FBI Wiretap Bill." Law and order is important, but it does not require that we all give up our telephone privacy to the FBI and every other spy agency in existence. Remind them that wiretapping is illegal, so there is no need for a law to make it

easier. In addition to your own Congressmen, you may want to contact Rep. Jack Brooks, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, at 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, (202)225-3951 (voice), (202) 225-1958 (fax). While you're at it, if you would like to get in touch with EPIC, the privacy protection fighters, you can call them at (202)544-9240, or e-mail them at info@epic.org.

Hopefully, the normal delays of magazine publishing won't make this plea too late. This is the first issue of Boardwatch for which a story could be written following the announcement that Digital Telephony is imminent (and Boardwatch has unusually short lead times for a monthly), and there are reports that it could be pushed to a vote as early as mid-September. If there's any time left when you read this, act now!

[Lance Rose is an attorney and writer practicing high-tech and information law in Montclair, NJ with the firm Lance Rose & Associates. He can be found on the Internet at elrose@path.net, and on Compuserve at 72230,2044. He is also author of SysLaw, the legal guide for online service providers, available from PC Information Group at 800-321-8285. - Editor]

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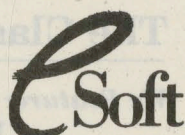
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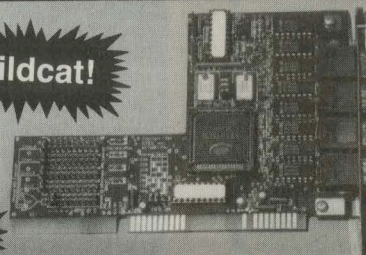
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| COM 1 - 4 Compatible | YES | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
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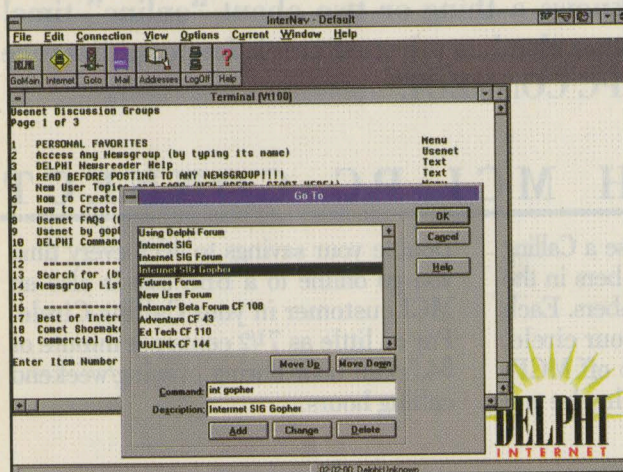


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INTERNAV NEARS RELEASE

by Walt Howe

Delphi's new Windows based software package, Internav, has gone through a successful testing period and will be released soon, probably before you read this, according to its authors. It will be available for download and soon will appear in sign-up packages in the stores. This is the first of several generations of software that will be released for Delphi in the months to come. The screens accompanying this article are taken from Internav. The first figure shows the use of the GOTO function, which has some preset menu items, and can be easily customized with selections of your own choice.



AIR WARRIOR IS NOW AVAILABLE

Following the purchase of Kesmai Corporation by Delphi's parent company, News Corp., Delphi has introduced the first of the Kesmai online games to Delphi. Air Warrior can now be downloaded directly, and once set up, it can be played online with full realistic graphics. Air Warrior features complex flight simulation, where you pilot or act as other crew members on a large variety of combat aircraft of your choice. You interact with other players online, and you may find 50 to 60 planes filling your airspace on both sides of an encounter. Other games will follow soon, including Federation II, Island of Kesmai, MUD II, and Stellar Emperor.

DR. ALAN BARATZ APPOINTED CEO OF DELPHI

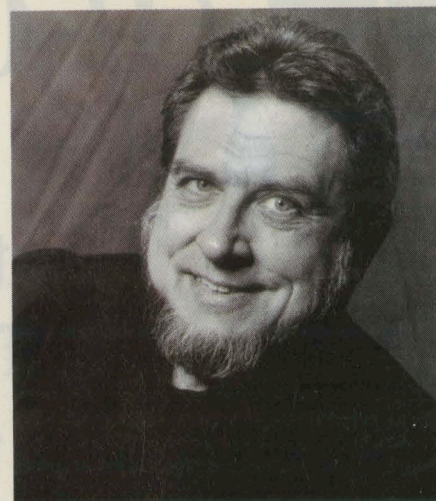
Mr. Rupert Murdoch, Chairman and Chief Executive of News Corporation, recently announced the appointment of Dr. Alan Baratz, 39, to the position of Chief Executive Officer of Delphi Internet Services, effective August 1, 1994. Dr. Baratz succeeds Mr. Daniel Bruns who has been named Chairman of Delphi Internet Services.

Dr. Baratz has been a senior executive with International Business Machines Corporation in Armonk, New York. Most recently he held the position of IBM Director of Strategic Development with responsibilities for IBM network services. Dr. Baratz was previously Group Director of High Performance Computing and Communications in IBM's Multimedia Division. In that capacity, he played a significant role in the establishment of the Internet as he led IBM's efforts in the creation of the National Science Foundation Network (NSFNET), the nationwide backbone of the Internet.

Dr. Baratz holds his doctorate in Computer Science and an MS in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, both from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His BS degree in Mathematics/ Computer Science is from UCLA. His areas of technical expertise include network design and network-based applications software development.

FINDING PEOPLE ON THE NETS

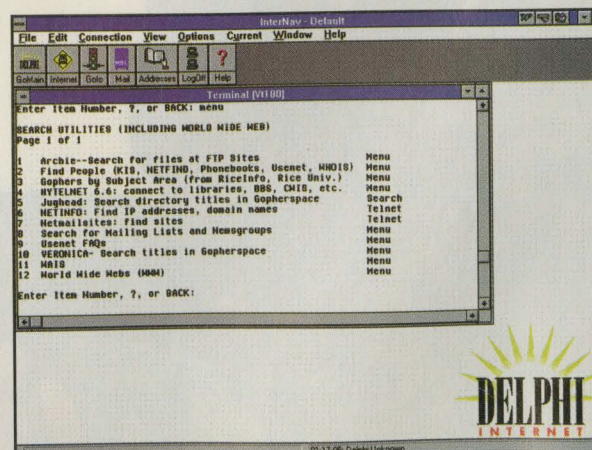
Did you ever want to track down an old friend's e-mail address. Delphi's Internet services provide a set of search tools that make it possible to find people all over the world. The more you know about a person, the more likely you are to be able to find an e-mail address, but

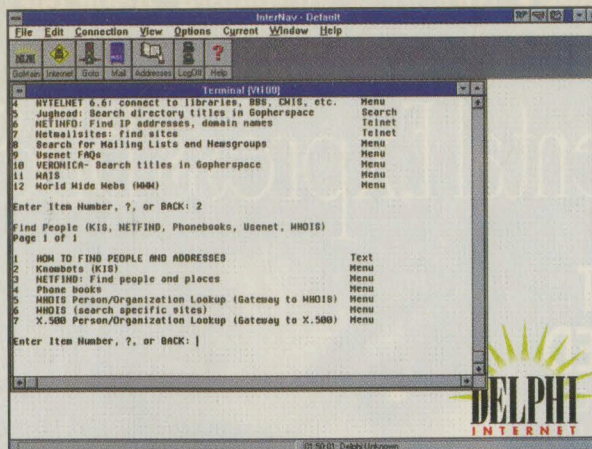


even if you have no idea where a person is located, you have a fair chance if he or she is active on the Internet. Here are some approaches that begin with the situation where you know everything but the user ID or e-mail address and range to the situation where you know nothing but the person's name.

TELEPHONE. The most obvious way doesn't use the Internet at all. Use information and call the person on the telephone, and ask for the e-mail address. Surprisingly often, the person isn't sure. In such cases, ask the person to send you e-mail at your address (yourid@delphi.com). This will usually tell you the address.

FINGER. If you know the person's name and e-mail address, but not the username, try the finger command from the Internet SIG's Utilities menu. Not every place supports finger, but where it is supported, it will give you quick confirmation. When you type a command in this form, it will





tell you the person's userid, the last time logged on, and perhaps even some other personal information, if it has been posted in a file called a plan finger **lastname@email.address**

GOPHER SUPPORTED UTILITIES.

If you enter Delphi's main gopher and select **SEARCH UTILITIES**: see menu in graphic.

The third item on this menu is Finding People. When you select it, you see the set of search tools and help that appear in the next figure.

NETFIND AND PHONEBOOKS. If finger is not successful, there are more powerful utilities in the Internet SIG gopher's **SEARCH UTILITIES** menu. If you know the person's organization, but not the specific e-mail address, Netfind and Phone Books give you two more approaches. First, check the Phone Books menu to see if the person's organization has online phone books. While there are no master phone books of the whole Internet, many organizations maintain a phone book that you can search. Follow the menus to the appropriate organization. A master list of Internet phone books is maintained at Notre Dame, and you can tap into this source by gopher. You can track down the appropriate phone book geographically and alphabetically.

Netfind lets you look up a person when you just know part of the address or organization. It is a kind of super finger command that will work with less information. Select one of the Netfind choices, login as netfind and select item 2 on the menu that comes up:

Top level choices:

1. Help
2. Search

3. Seed database lookup
4. Options
5. Quit (exit server)

When prompted, enter a name followed by a set of keywords that describe the address, such as **howe world std com**

The name can be a first, last, or username, but only one name can be used. The keys should list where the person works by the name of the institution or location. If you know the institution's domain name (e.g., "world.std.com", you can specify it as keys without the dots (e.g., "world std com"). Keys are case insensitive and may be specified in any order. Specifying too many keys may cause searches to fail. If this happens, try specifying fewer keys, e.g., **howe std com**

If you specify keys that match many domains, Netfind will list the matching domains/organizations and ask you to form a more specific search. Note that you can use any of the words in the organization strings (in addition to the domain components) as keys in future searches. When prompted to select domains to search, you should specify them in order of what you think is their likelihood of success.

WHOIS. The WHOIS utility lets you search many different organizations by a slightly different approach. The Delphi gopher gives you the general WHOIS maintained by the government, primarily for system administrators and government personnel, and the second one where you can follow menus to many different organizations.

X.500 Another type of phone book used by many organizations allows you to look up people systematically. The lookups are quite straightforward, if

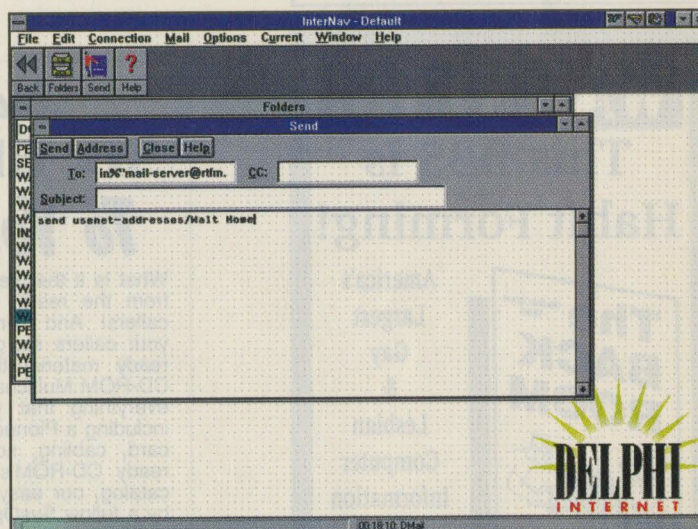
you find the organization you are looking for in the menus.

FINDING AN ADDRESS FOR A PERSON WHERE YOU DO NOT KNOW THE ORGANIZATION OR LOCATION. This is akin to looking for a long lost friend, and the chances are not very good, but occasionally, the search yields pleasant surprises.

KIS. You can give it your best shot by trying the Knowbot Information System (KIS), which can search the national WHOIS services at Internic, MCIMail accounts, and certain European networks. Select Knowbots from the gopher menu, and follow instructions to log in. You can start a search just by typing in lastname firstname and pressing enter, or you can type help the first time to learn about more options in the service.

USENET NEWSGROUP USERS

Another way that can be surprisingly successful is to search the database of all people who post to Usenet newsgroups. This will find someone in any part of the world, whether or not they are in any phone book or users list. All



that is required is that they posted a message to a newsgroup at some time in the not too distant past. The database to be searched is the **usenet-addresses.src** file maintained by MIT. This utility used to be available for searching by WAIS, the Wide Area Information Service developed by Thinking Machines Corporation originally. It is not currently available from public WAIS sources, but it can be searched by sending e-mail to MIT. The third figure shows a WAIS search set up in the Internav software mail

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editor. The address window does not show the full address, which is **mail-server@rtfm.mit.edu**.

MUDS, MUSHES, MUSES, MUCKS, AND MOOS

The above names are various types of multi-user role playing games. The basic type is the MUD, which is an acronym for Multi-User Dungeon (or Domain or Dimension). Delphi's gophers now point to approximately 350 of these popular games around the world. Approximately two-thirds of these are the classic hack and slash games based in fantasy or science fiction worlds where the object is to grow stronger competitively by killing monsters and sometimes each other. The other third are the more social games, where the object is to interact with others and build a world rather than kill its monsters. Whichever type you prefer, they can be very addictive. Delphi member RICKADAMS has been running a Saturday evening seminar on MUDs to introduce new users to the games. Drop in at 10 Eastern time in the Internet SIG conference area on

almost any Saturday night. Read his tutorial in the Resources Database, too.

CUSTOM FORUM 300 REACHED

Delphi's popular Custom Forums, where any user can set up his or her own forum, have now gone over the 300 mark. Six months ago, there were barely 100 Custom Forums. Last month's issue mentioned that the Shareware program Rainbow, which was ported over from NVN by its author David Colston was available in CF200, the NVN Custom Forum. "Uncle Dave" now has his own CF supporting Rainbow. You can pick up the latest version and get timely support for your questions in Custom Forum 250.

[Walt Howe is the Internet Special Interest Group Manager on Delphi. He comes from a long background in the online world, and he has sysoped during the past 12 years for several BBSs, the old Source network, CompuServe, and Delphi. He worked for the Army for 32 years training soldiers in Signals Intelligence skills

until he retired two years ago. He was a cryptanalyst while in uniform in the early 60s. Surfing the nets comes very naturally after this kind of background. He is the co-author with Steve Lambert of the current book **Internet Basics, Your Online Access to the Global Electronic Superhighway**, available in most bookstores. A previous publication was for the Army, FM 34-40-2 Basic Cryptanalysis (not available to the public). Walt has also written a number of user manuals for various computer companies, including Delphi. Walt can be reached by e-mail as **walthowe@delphi.com**. A five hour free Delphi membership is available by dialing **800-695-4002** by modem and using the password **INTERNETSIG**.]

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| Faulken | INFO*Share, Inc | 703-791-2910 | 703-791-2910 | 703-749-2889 | DOS | ? | 64 | I | N | 3 | O | I | I | Y | \$999 | \$149 |
| FirstClass | SoftArc, Inc | 416-299-4723 | 416-754-1856 | 416-609-2250 | MAC | 100 | 22 | OS | Y | 3 | O | N | I | Y | \$3450 | \$95 |
| GAP | GAP Development Co | 714-496-3774 | 714-496-3774 | 714-493-3819 | DOS | 100 | 16 | DV | Y | 3 | 3 | I | Y | Y | \$359 | \$79 |
| Hermes II | Computer Classifieds | 206-643-2316 | 206-643-7830 | 206-643-2874 | MAC | 10 | 10 | OS | Y | 3 | 3 | N | N | Y | \$95 | \$95 |
| hi-BBS | XBR Communication | 514-489-1001 | 514-489-4966 | 514-489-0445 | MAC | 130 | ? | OS | Y | N | O | N | N | Y | \$3400 | \$70 |
| Kitten | TelPro Technologies | 804-442-5865 | - | 804-442-5867 | DOS/OS2 | 999 | ? | OS | Y | 3 | 3 | N | N | Y | \$195 | \$195 |
| Magnum BBS | Gilmore Systems | 805-379-3210 | 805-379-1341 | 805-379-3450 | OS/2 | Unlim | 32 | OS | Y | N | N | I | N | Y | \$900 | \$75 |
| MEGAHOST | ASCII Computer Enterprises | - | - | 209-836-2402 | DOS | 10 | 8 | DV | Y | 3 | 3 | 3 | N | Y | \$49 | \$49 |
| Multi-Net | Multi-Net Communications | 503-883-8099 | 503-883-7879 | 503-883-8197 | OS2 | 999 | 12 | OS | Y | N | N | I | N | Y | \$895 | \$195 |
| Novalink Professional | ResNova Software Inc | 714-379-9000 | 714-379-9014 | 714-379-9004 | MAC | Unlim | 40 | OS | Y | 3 | I | N | N | Y | ? | \$300 |
| OPUS-CBCS | | 214-528-4687 | - | 214-528-4943 | DOS | 255 | 1 | DV | N | I | 3 | 3 | N | Y | Free | Free |
| PCBoard | Clark Development, Inc | 801-261-1686 | 801-261-8987 | 801-261-8976 | DOS | 1000+ | 16 | DV | Y | I | 3 | I | 3 | Y | \$10000 | \$170 |
| PowerBBS | Power Computing | 516-938-0506 | | 516-822-7396 | Windows | Unlim | 9 | OS | N | 3 | I | I | N | Y | \$189 | \$99 |
| Powerboard BBS | NUIQ Software, Inc | 914-833-3479 | 914-833-3623 | 914-833-1479 | DOS | 999 | 8 | DV | Y | I | 3 | I | Y | Y | \$2300 | \$99 |
| ProBoard | ProBoard International | 612-537-8655 | 612-537-8613 | 612-537-8659 | DOS | 255 | 8 | DV | Y | I | N | I | N | Y | \$49 | \$49 |
| ProLine | Morgan Davis group | 619-670-0563 | 619-670-9643 | 619-670-5379 | APPLE II | 1 | 1 | - | Y | N | I | N | N | N | \$159.95 | \$159.95 |
| RATsoft ST | ROdent Laboratories Software | | | 801-756-2901 | ATARI | ? | ? | - | | | | | | | | |
| RemoteAccess | Wantree | 913-441-1336 | 913-441-0596 | 913-441-0595 | DOS | 250 | 1 | DV | Y | 3 | - | 3 | N | Y | \$529 | \$149 |
| RoboBoard/FX | Hamilton TeleGraphics | 800-363-7626 | 819-685-0994 | 819-682-7771 | DOS | 255 | 8 | DV | Y | 3 | O | N | N | Y | \$400 | \$95 |
| RyBBS | The Ryco Company | 414-962-5967 | - | 414-962-1097 | DOS | 9 | 4 | DV | Y | O | N | 3 | N | Y | \$175 | \$75 |
| Sapphire | Pinnacle Software | 514-345-9578 | 514-733-8644 | 514-345-8654 | DOS | 1 | 1 | - | N | N | N | N | N | Y | \$45 | \$45 |
| Searchlight BBS | Searchlight Software | 216-631-9290 | 216-631-9289 | 216-631-9285 | DOS | Unlim | 10 | DV | Y | I | 3 | 3 | 3 | Y | \$399 | \$99 |
| Second Sight Software | FreeSoft Co. | 412-846-2700 | - | 412-846-5312 | MAC | 2 | 2 | OS | Y | 3 | N | N | N | N | ? | \$199 |
| SpitFire BBS | Buffalo Creek Software | 515-225-9552 | - | 515-225-8496 | DOS | 255 | 1 | DV | Y | 3 | 3 | I | N | Y | \$85 | \$85 |
| Synchronet | Digital Dynamics | 714-529-6328 | 714-529-9721 | 714-529-5313 | DOS | 250 | 10 | DV | Y | I | 3 | I | N | Y | \$399 | \$99 |
| TBBS | eSoft, Inc | 303-699-6565 | 303-699-6872 | 303-699-8222 | DOS | - | 64 | I | N | O | 3 | O | N | Y | \$1995 | \$295 |
| TEAMate | MMB Development Corp. | 310-318-1322 | 310-318-2162 | 310-318-5302 | UNIX | Unlim | - | OS | Y | N | O | O | N | Y | \$125000 | \$2000 |
| Telefinder | Spider Island Software | 714-669-9260 | 714-669-1383 | 714-730-5785 | MAC | 200 | 20 | OS | Y | 3 | 3 | N | N | Y | \$2000 | \$425 |
| The Major BBS | Galacticomm, Inc. | 305-583-5990 | 305-583-7846 | 305-583-7808 | DOS | 256 | 256 | I | Y | 3 | O | Y | Y | Y | \$10717 | \$259 |
| TinyHost | Bruce Krobusek | 716-924-8284 | 716-924-4193 | 716-924-4193 | DOS | 1 | 1 | DV | N | N | N | N | N | Y | \$25 | \$25 |
| TriBBS | TriSoft | | 207-941-9388 | 207-941-0805 | DOS | 255 | 4 | DV | Y | O | 3 | O | N | Y | \$75 | \$75 |
| UltraBBS | CDB Systems, Inc | 303-444-7071 | 303-444-0035 | 303-642-7463 | DOS | Unlim | 4 | DV | Y | I | I | I | Y | Y | \$75 | \$75 |
| Virtual BBS | Virtual Technologies | 210-787-2443 | 616-399-8934 | 616-399-4818 | DOS/OS2 | 1024 | 16 | DV | Y | I | 3 | I | I | Y | \$999 | \$99 |
| Wildcat! | Mustang Software, Inc. | 805-873-2500 | 805-873-2599 | 805-873-2400 | DOS | 250 | 8 | DV | Y | 3 | O | I | O | Y | \$799 | \$129 |
| WWIV | WWIV Software Services | 210-631-6090 | - | 210-631-5841 | DOS | 999 | 8 | DV | Y | 3 | 3 | 3 | N | Y | \$320 | \$80 |
| Z/Max XChange | Z/Max Computer Solutions, Inc | 315-635-1882 | 315-635-1908 | - | UNIX | Unlim | - | OS | Y | N | I | N | N | Y | ? | \$695 |

Y = YES

N = NO

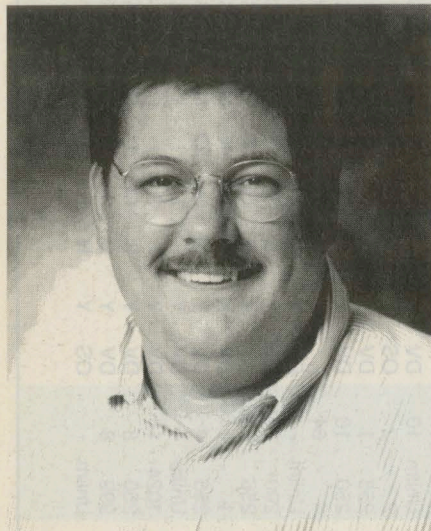
I = INTERNAL

O = OPTIONAL

3 = THIRD PARTY

AMERICA ONLINE

AOL IS NAMED BEST BY DVORAK AWARDS AND IS SPORTING A NEW LOOK



By Dave Tennant

AOL has been named best online service of the year, receiving the Dvorak Telecommunications Award, and Steve Case has won top honors as its President at ONE BBSCON, the Electronic BBS super convention held in August in Atlanta, Georgia. The award, presented by John Dvorak, and sponsored by Hayes Microcomputer Products Company, lauded AOL for its explosive growth, response to consumer demand, and easy to use interface.

And even better news is that pretty soon AOL will have software. By the time you read this column, users of the Macintosh version will be using their free AOL update, and users of the Windows version will be receiving their free software in the mail. I wasn't able to beta test the Macintosh AOL software, but one of my moles who is a beta tester let me look over their shoulder at the new beta version of WAOL 2.0, which takes up 2 megabytes of hard disk space (Wow!).

The new interface fits a lot more on opening screen real estate. Some of the Highlights include newer, more up-to-date graphics (kind of a quasi multimedia style), flatter and wider buttons for easier access that will take you in a moment from the main menu to major areas of the services AOL offers.

There are 14 new buttons:

- Today's News
- Newsstand
- Personal Finance
- Entertainment
- Clubs & Interests
- Education
- Computing
- Reference Desk
- Travel
- Marketplace
- Internet Connection
- Sports
- People Connection
- Kids Only

There was the time that you had to know the forum, the keyword, or both, just in case you didn't like the daily button flavor selection. This is a much smarter setup making it easier for the user to explore the service and the experienced user to go quickly to their usual areas. I like to go every once in a while to the Atlantic Monthly and the New Republic to read their articles, but can forget what great coverage for news and information I get from the San Jose Mercury News - more news even than the New York Times online, which doesn't post as much as the Mercury News online. If I press the Newsstand button I'll see these as part of the selections, as well as my choice. Likewise anyone else who goes on the service for the first time will more likely than not find many ways to find something of interest.

The opening screen of WAOL has the same three boxes, and carrying on the theme of connectivity, the Blue sky in box one carries over to the other two boxes with a golden key appearing when you sign on, moving to lightning, and then illuminating a dark blue AOL symbol. This new opening symbol gives the look of more up to date graphics, and indeed it is, but it is not multimedia. AOL President Steve Case stated in an earlier letter to members that the service would make more evolutionary (rather than revolutionary) changes toward a MUI interface - one with more multimedia - and this new Windows version of the software moves a little in that direction, but only a little. True MUI won't be available till AOL comes to our homes via fiber optic or cable. In the meantime, the new graphics are visually interesting with different pictures and a deeper 3-D set of images for the various forums on the main menu and

the "What's currently hot" menu, but the new look only lasts for the first one or two screen levels, and then the service takes on the same old look. Except for a couple of weather screen shots, there is still no capacity to view pictures on the screen (as one can on Prodigy). This software is probably the foundation for future screens, and AOL is most likely building the screens one at a time to later upload to the user.

While exploring around AOL I came across the current construction of the new WordPerfect Magazine Online. While browsing the literature, I discovered what might be one of the more promising aspects of developments on AOL; Online Access Electronic Magazine Binder (OLA for short). OLA is a viewer, using the Envoy format, that makes it possible for publishers to post an electronic version of a magazine article that looks like the paper version (graphics, formatting, screen shots, etc.) It is a unified place to store and retrieve all article files uploaded in OLA format. Word Perfect Magazine Online will be one of the first magazines offering online access with OLA. Articles will be posted in a text-only version which can be viewed online, as usual, and an electronic magazine version which can also be read with the online Access Electronic Magazine Binder. The OLA Binder will allow users to see all the graphics, screen shots, and design that make up WordPerfect Magazine's award-winning publication.

I'm hoping that this format will become a standard and that in the future, some form of hypermedia will be available in these articles as well. For right now, the macros and associated files from each article will also be available in the WordPerfect Magazine forum.

COMPUTER CURRENTS ON AOL

Speaking of magazines on AOL, I recently found one of my favorite magazines online. Computer Currents, a monthly trade rag from the Bay area consistently carries the latest news about the ever-changing computing world and I found it carried under the San Jose Mercury News. It's a little buried and you have to dig for it, but keyword "Mercury," click the business and then computing button, and you'll see the Computer Currents file on the

bottom of the dialogue list. It would sure be easier if they would put the Currents button on the opening SJMN screen - or if they would give it its own keyword, say... "Computer Currents?" It's not taken; I checked. I enjoy the magazine well enough not only because of the articles, but because of the BBS listings and screen shots as well. I hope that in the future a version of AOL will support the screen shots, maybe using OLA. A listing of the BBSs, of articles, reviews, and so forth are also available. Oh, by the way, if you didn't know about Computer Currents, you may not know about your favorite BBS magazine Boardwatch. It does have its own keyword - Boardwatch.

"WOODSTOCK!"

By the time you read this article, all the fuss will most likely be over and the forum itself may be gone. But if you are a thirty or forty something waxing nostalgic for the "Purple Haze" days, or if you are in the Pearl Jam set and just curious about all the fuss over Woodstock - that first "Jurassic Park" of rock and roll, then keyword "Woodstock" and journey back to the musings of a bygone era of free love and great rock bands unsullied by the commercialism of MTV. Personally, I agree with one wag who said that the only thing naked this time was greed; Still, it is an interesting 20-20 back down one of history's more spontaneous happenings. There are some pretty cool files to download from this forum. Check out the sound wave files in the library ("Pink Thing" sound file Win Wav), or any of the Mac files. I even saw a complete song available for download from the weekend. You can see pictures of the bands, the staging, Max Yasgur's farm yesterday and today. Woodstock Online may also have the same impact as the original - putting bands on the map, or in this case on the Net. Attention Deadheads (Any of you out there online?); the Grateful Dead have their own forum complete with photographs to download, and the latest news on this summer's music festivals. Keyword: **DEAD** and you are there - wherever there is.

O.J. SIMPSON ON AOL...

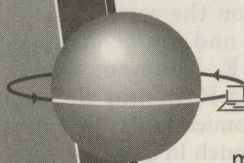
Like anyone who has been alive these last few months, I have heard more than I thought I cared to regarding the O.J. Simpson case. I was intrigued though to find that AOL posted the three copies of the Grand Jury hear-

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*Photographic images available April 1994

ings online in the Court TV forum (Keyword: **Court TV**). In the text files, which can be imported to any word-processor, you can read one witness' attempt to keep himself from charges, only to be forced to testify; or, read the chilling details from the coroner's testimony regarding the actual wounds and cause of death. Believe me - Detective Magazine has nothing on this; it's gruesome reading!

This is the testimony heard by the Los Angeles Grand Jury before the current trial got under way, so it has very little of the courtroom theatrics that play across our TV screens on a daily basis. I can see why people are hooked on this stuff; one of my favorite shows is NBC's "Law and Order," but these Simpson Grand Jury transcripts are even more compelling and worth looking into, if only to see how slowly and painstakingly grind those wheels of justice.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN GETS INTO THE SIMPSON ACT

The new Science American Forum (Keyword: **SCIAM**) is a fun place to download the latest pictures of comets, planets, space ships, KlingonsOOPS, wrong forum. This forum was also jumping on the OJ Simpson bandwagon when last I visited. The headline button under the scroll bar dialogue choices blared "DNA 'FINGERPRINTING' MAY BE PIVOTAL IN O.J. SIMPSON TRIAL." This forum has the usual access to the magazine Scientific American, plus it offers discussion and message boards, Internet button shortcuts via the Internet Gateway, book reviews, articles, and a picture of the history of this, the longest continuously-published magazine in America. From the "Analytical Economist" to "Science and the Citizen," SA's writers and contributors form a network of scientific information that kept me exploring a long time. Here is also the place to take advantage of downloading off-line viewers for the numerous JPEGs and other pictures available in this forum. (These viewers are available all over the service). I have downloaded about six of these viewers, the latest being MPEG for Windows by King Technology. MPEG for Windows is a multimedia viewer for animated clips. Download the compressed file Mpegdemo.zip and WAOL will expand the program's files into a new subdirectory. Using File Manager or the File/Run command for Setup.exe, the program will configure to your system.

You can use either of the two command line methods, plus additional parameters, to customize the installation and view downloaded animated clips. Make sure to read the README.doc.

DC COMICS ONLINE

One of the newest forums, and I would bet, soon to be very popular once the word gets out, is DC Comics. (They really shouldn't call them "comic" strips anymore because they deal with pretty weighty stuff.) Keyword **DC Comics** and AOL will flash you a message that artwork is being loaded into your computer AOL database. The artwork on the screen shows the Man of Steel and my favorite superhero, Alfred E. Neuman; What, Me Worry? Greg Ross and the people behind DC Comics make the promise that there is much in store for America Online members. Wouldn't interactive comics and story lines be cool? Better yet: CoolWorld! I am hoping that this means they are not just going to shoot for the adolescent market, but also aim for the twenty, thirty, and forty somethings out there who comprise a growing market for what is being termed "Graphic novels."

According to an August edition of US News and World Report, TDC Comics, not on AOL - yet, is cashing in on the rising popularity of its comic action figures, and I am not talking just about X-Men. Adult comic books are becoming more the rage; people who grew up reading comics have graduated from Superman and Batman, and now can read "Peepshow," explore the Arab-Israeli conflict in comic book form in artist Joe Sacco's "Palestine" or review what it is like to be a part of modern womanhood in Roberta Gregory's "Naughty Bits." Although the DC comics are still for kids, consider that you can now read the serious works like "Maus," recounting one man's father and his experiences during the nightmare years of the Holocaust, or Markowitz and Crumb's "Kafka." Be advised that these graphic novels are growing in popularity, and it would be on my wish list to see them included on AOL, either in DC comics area, or in a new one. What DC does offer in the way of new styles of comics, are the Milestone comics with its own selection of super heroes, Vertigo, and Paradox Press. Just under two years old, Milestone's characters are politically correct, offering multicultural superheroes.

One feature I am partial to is the "Dailies" which shows you how a character was released fifty years previous. In this case it was Batman in 1944. (I've followed Batman since before and through the last three Robins.) In its basic design, DC has customized "neighborhoods" offering activities for each of the editorial groups that fall within DC's realm of publishing: DC Comics, MAD Magazine, Vertigo, Milestone Media and Paradox Press. They have sections on trading cards, video games, the Six Flags theme parks, and Warner Brothers Studio Stores.

I tried to get into the Milestone, Vertigo, and Paradox Press areas several times. Each time I got an onscreen message that stated I would be getting files downloaded to my computer, a one-time only transfer that would take only a few minutes. Each time, (I tried over five times) the screen would freeze for over fifteen minutes. I suspect it was the beta WAOL 2.0 software, because going in with an old DOS version was no trouble at all, but also no graphics. I went into the auditorium (the Odean) but it wasn't open, and the rest of the forum is still under construction. I expect though that this is the place to go to meet the creators of your favorite comic strip writers.

Until next time.

[Dave Tennant is an Economics and English Instructor in Southern California. He can be reached on America Online at "Dtennan" or on the Internet at dtennan@eis.calstate.edu]



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











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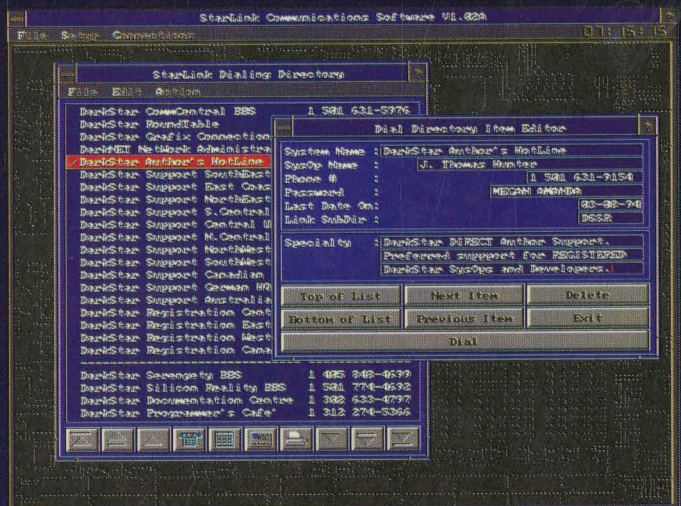
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Sample Custom DataBase under the DarkStar Graphic Editor



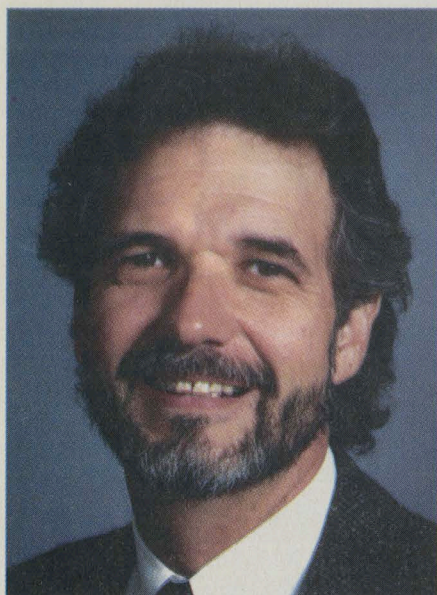
StarLink terminal dialing directory database.



Sample menu under construction in the DarkStar graphic editor with iconbutton import facility overlaid.

PRODIGY

PRODIGY GOES BACK TO SCHOOL WITH THE FEATURES FOR TEENS AND CHILDREN



by Ric Manning

Annie's looking for a cheerleader club. Tabitha loves band but hates marching. Adrienne says the uniform at her Catholic school is UG-LY. Tori needs help with trigonometry and Shannon is working up a protest against dissection.

Chatter in the halls at school? No, it's chatter on the School section of Prodigy's Teens Bulletin Board, where the topics range from advanced math and yearbook themes to interracial dating..

When school resumes each fall, Prodigy's usage goes up and much of the traffic is generated by students and young children. Here's a look at some of the features Prodigy offers to keep them informed and entertained:

BULLETIN BOARDS

The Teens board is loaded with notes from junior high and high schoolers, including a high percentage of girls. Many post notes looking for other kids from their school. But they also find a lot to share with members throughout the country. When one boy complained about the uniform requirements at his school and asked who had the toughest rules, he got this response from a girl named Nikki:

"T-shirts have to be folded in 8x8 inch squares, socks in 3x3, panties in 4x4, and they do pull out that ruler. If you're not perfect, you do push ups. Then fix it

and don't eat till it's all done. . . PS: I go to a military school."

For more serious matters, there's the Homework section on Prodigy's Education Bulletin Board. Even in high summer, students were asking for help in math, psychology and history. But especially math.

"Can you come up with a way of dividing a circle into congruent pieces, at least one of which does NOT touch the center?" asked a student who was taking summer courses.

Other topics on the Education board include Classroom management, Gifted and talented, Home schooling, Special Ed and Parent Exchange, where parents talk about such things as Montessori schools, dyslexia, boarding schools and even Hooked on Phonics.

Teachers also have their own bulletin board with topics devoted to professional development, online projects, educational software, in-service training and learning adventures.

CHAT

Along with the usual gab on Prodigy's new Chat line, the service plans to offer live homework helpers this fall. Prodigy will have special rooms devoted to school subjects, such as fifth grade math, with tutors standing by to offer immediate assistance.

BABY SITTER'S CLUB

Like the TV show of the same name, the Prodigy version is designed to appeal to pre-teen girls. There is some talk about babysitting and some projects for real sitters. Kitchen Magician, for example, explains how to do tricks with cabbage and other stuff from the kitchen.



But mostly the club is a place for kids to swap ideas and tackle problems. Ask Ann is a feature that lets kids post questions to club creator Ann M. Martin. Martin posts four new answers every week. Many of the questions are lightweight, but some aren't. One girl asked Martin how to approach her real father who sends money every month but isn't interested in getting to know his daughter.

READING MAGIC

Tom Snyder's stories for young children unfold on the screen like an animated comic book. And each story includes decision points that let the child decide the direction the story will take.

For example, a recent story followed a boy who intended to mail a package for his sister. When the boy discovers there are no stamps on the package, the reader decides whether he should open the package or put it in the mailbox anyway.

KID'S NEWS

NOVA columnist Ethan Herberman explains some of nature's best mysteries in Beyond Belief, his monthly column under Kid's News.

In one recent posting, he looked at how insects are considered great eating in some cultures. You can also look up his past columns on subjects such as lighting and migrating animals.

Kid's News also offers lots of short dispatches from the celebrity world. Readers can get the latest on Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie, the stars of the next Batman film and find out if Harrison Ford will make another Indiana Jones movie.

TWISTED TALES

Children can write their own goofy stories by typing in about a dozen words. The program asks for an adverb or two, a couple of names and the odd noun, then drops them into strategic places in a funny story such as "Beauty Tips for the 90s Ghoul."

MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

Throughout the latter months of 1993, Prodigy followed the expedition of Norman Vaughan who was a member of Admiral Richard Byrd's team that explored Antarctica in the 1920s.

Byrd named a mountain after Vaughan and Vaughan had hoped to reach the mountain by dogsled and climb it by the end of the year. The trip was postponed, however, when bad weather moved in at the end of the Antarctic summer. Vaughan vowed to try again this year.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Every month, National Geographic introduces Prodigy members to a different part of the world. When the feature visited Arcadia National Park in Maine, members got a lesson in lobster fishing, an intimate view of a tidal pool and a chance to pose questions to a National Park ranger.

Other visits to places such as the Colorado River, Yellowstone National Park, Indonesia and the Himalaya Mountains are also online.



MAKE-IT

Make-It is a collection of fun projects kids can tackle with stuff they find around the house.

The projects are divided into gifts, party ideas, outdoor projects, games and things to do with paper.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR KIDS

This online adjunct to the magazine gives kids access to the magazine's writers and sports stars.

After the Major League All-Star Game, a 12-year-old Pittsburgh boy who got to report on the game with an SI for Kids writer posted his account on Prodigy. The kids went into the post-game interviews armed with questions contributed by Prodigy members.

A later feature offered readers tips on collecting sports memorabilia and an opportunity to question Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman.



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Prodigy has begun testing delivery of its service in Canada with an arrangement that makes the service available to employees of the Southam newspaper chain.

The deployment follows a test in February which Prodigy says resulted in significant demand for a Canadian version of Prodigy. Canadian computer users can subscribe to competing

services, but they pay a much higher rate than Prodigy charges.

Prodigy said it will continue expanding access to the service throughout 1994 and may decide to launch a Canadian version of Prodigy in 1995.

CELEBRITY STAMPEDE

Book authors still go on tour and movie stars still sit for Leno and Letterman. But online interviews are quickly becoming a routine stop on celebrity promotion tours.

Prodigy, for instance, lined up more than a dozen celebrities for online interviews and chats this summer and fall. Topping the list was Mick Jagger and Keith Richards from The Rolling Stones who visited Prodigy at the end of July.

Prodigy members who have Windows and a sound card heard Jagger's recorded introduction when they logged on to the interview area.

Lisa Robinson, a feature writer for Rolling Stone magazine who lines up music stars for Prodigy, said she gets more requests than she can handle. Musicians who have appeared on Prodigy in the past include Peter Gabriel, Meat Loaf and Tony Bennett.

"There's a certain cachet to being able to talk online," John Tesh told the Associated Press after the "Entertainment Tonight" host answered questions on Prodigy in June. "It's a sexy way of communicating right now."

Other celebrities Prodigy has scheduled for late summer and fall include actress Jamie Lee Curtis, basketball player Kenny Smith, baseball Hall of Famer Phil Rizzuto, authors Sidney Sheldon, Barbara Taylor Bradford and Erica Jong, comedians Steve Allen and Jerry Van Dyke, travel expert Arthur Frommer and economist John Kenneth Galbraith.

NEW BOARD TARGETS ABUSE

A new topic under Prodigy's Homelife bulletin board offers support for victims of domestic violence. The service says the board is designed to be a way for men and women to receive support and advice in an inconspicuous forum.

Among the people contributing to the board are Michael Dowd, a lawyer who has defended women accused of killing their husbands, and Andrea Dworkin, an author who has discussed her experience as a battered spouse.

Counselors are also using the board and e-mail to distribute information on abuse shelters and laws regarding domestic abuse.

NO GUTS, NO GLORY

Quick, what city was the first capital of the Confederacy? Was it Mobile? Birm-

ingham? Atlanta? Richmond? The answer, if you're fast enough, is worth 140 points in Guts, Prodigy's online game for trivia gunslingers.

Guts is a lot like the trivia games that NTN Communications beams to taverns and sports bars around the country. A question flashes on the screen along with a set of possible answers. You score points by choosing the right answer and more points by choosing it quickly.

You can play for fun to test your trivia knowledge or you can compete for prizes with other Guts players around the country. A round of games lasts seven weeks. Each game has seven questions and you have seven minutes to answer one. You can stop playing at any time and sit on your current score.

But here's the kicker: get one question wrong and you lose all your points for the entire seven weeks.

"That's why they call it Guts," said Tom Baer, who finished among the top three players in a recent game.

Baer, 43, works for Pitney Bowes Corp. in Connecticut. He said he's been playing Guts for about two years. After he showed the game to a few friends, they formed a loosely-organized team of five or six people who get together once a week to play.

Baer was a disk jockey who did an oldies show in college, so his expertise is in pop music. Others on his team are strong in history or science. And players should also be up on celebrity news and gossip.

One question that tripped Baer's team; which celebrity couple had the shortest marriage.

"We thought it was Richard Pryor, but the answer was Dennis Hopper and Michelle Phillips," he said.

Baer recommends creating a team if you want to play in the big leagues.

"Don't do it alone," he said. "You'd have to be a genius."

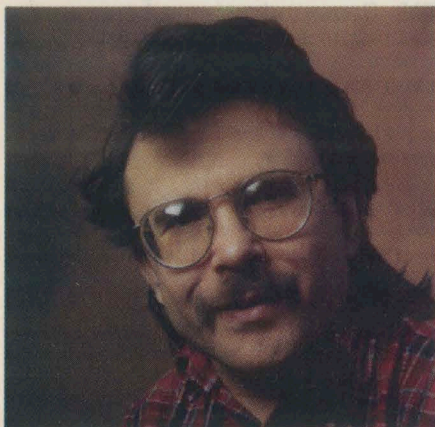
He also suggests having a good collection of reference books handy, such as Billboard magazine's music almanacs. And Baer's team also uses a stopwatch, so they'll know when to give up and take their best guess.

"Sometime you have to just go on instinct," he said.

Or on guts.

[Ric Manning writes about information technology for The Courier-Journal in Louisville, KY. His electronic mailboxes are USJM92A on Prodigy, 72715,210 on CompuServe and ricman@iglou.com on the Internet.]

LOOKING INTO GENIE



by Lenny Bailes

As I sit here preparing this month's column on GENie, Woodstock '94 (referred to by some of its attendees as "Greedstock") is in full swing at Saugherties, N.Y. Like its historic ancestor, this festival began its life as a commercial enterprise only to be converted into an anarchy of mud and warm bodies by ticketless invaders. The planners of Woodstock II sought to capture a vast audience in a limited access space. Once herded into the concert, attendees would be forced to pay outrageous prices for food and drink: \$6 for a burrito, \$2 for a cup of Pepsi, etc. Concertgoers who showed up on Friday were forbidden to carry their own supplies into the show. By Saturday night, fences were swept away, and most "peace patrolmen" abandoned their posts. With the aid of beer smuggled in by gatecrashers, the place was converted into a hybrid Frat toga party/hippie smoke-in (more alcohol/less marijuana than the previous time around). One of the other differences, this time, was the simultaneous transmission of Woodstock '94 news over Internet and commercial electronic services like the Well and GENie. GENie's SHOWBIZ RT featured a Woodstock Survival Kittopic wherein attendees and pay per view kibbitzers posted their impressions of the celebration. A temporary Woodstock channel was also set up over the weekend on Internet Relay Chat, and the Well dispatched a special team to the concert

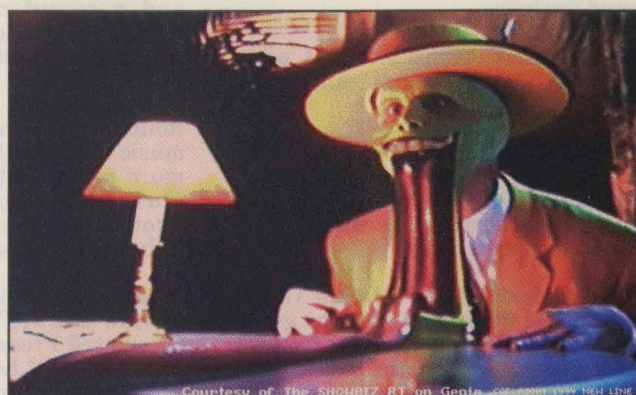
site to recruit new members. The IRC channel featured, among other onsite postings, a session with David Crosby, the most cybernetically advanced member of Crosby, Stills and Nash. Online reports from Woodstock's Surreal Field indicated that mud, mud, plenty of mud and a more or less friendly chaos succeeded in replacing the pre-planned Pepsi-Cola Theme Park.

Although GENie was outdone by The Well in its coverage of Woodstock, the SHOWBIZ RT has an unmatched collection of movie and theatrical reviews, movie discussions, and GIF stills from a wide number of current films. If you're looking for Windows wall-paper material from your favorite flick, you can probably find it here. SHOWBIZ also features a multimedia movie review database from shareware vendor ImagiSOFT, Inc. The "Movies To Go" database includes reviews of over 1,000 films, cross-indexed by cast, director, category, year of production and MPAA rating. The reviews, themselves, tend to be simple plot summaries. Although you won't find the kind of incisive soundbytes that make viewing selections for you, the database is really useful if, for example, you've just seen Tombstone and become a Val Kilmer fan. You can do a quick search and turn up a listing

of all the films Kilmer has ever appeared in.

(If, by the way, you're a really serious Val Kilmer fan, you might want to drop in on SF author Steven Brust's topic over in the Science Fiction and Fantasy RT (Page 470). Kilmer and Doc Holliday are sacred icons in the Brust topic's official religion.)


August being GENie's Hot Summer Nights month, an extra series of live RTC chats took place across the board. The Science Fiction and Fantasy RT featured a discussion on sf and poetry co-hosted by authors Lawrence



Courtesy of The SHOWBIZ RT on GENie. © 1994 WWW.HENRY LINE

Schimel and Mark Kreighbaum. Schimel began by reacquainting the participants with the basic form and rhyme-scheme for a villanelle. Schimel was surprised to learn that the distinctions between a sonnet, sestina, and villanelle are no longer being taught in high school English classes. (A participating English teacher pointed out that these days, it's considered a success just to get students to read and enjoy any poems in a classroom situation.) Mark Kreighbaum, a serious poet as well as a published science fiction author, lamented the degradation of the art form as exemplified in current science fiction magazines. Gifted humanists like Michael Bishop or Kim Stanley Robinson may occasionally sneak real poems into their stories, but for most SF editors "poetry" equals a few lines of stereotyped doggerel to be used as page filler. The editors

A Hot Summer Nights Fun



By
Keith A.
Garrett

Another writer will be visiting the Internet RoundTable toward the end of the month. IDG author Charles Seiter will be online to discuss his new book and give away autographed copies! Check the Internet RoundTable's schedule or type HSN on GENie for the date and time.

On August 9, the Multimedia, Desktop Video & Virtual Reality RoundTable welcomes Julia Lacey. Julia is an expert on Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, a debilitating condition that afflicts many computer users. All regular computer users should be sure to attend this conference which starts at 10PM Eastern time, to learn how to protect themselves from this crippling syndrome.

The New Age RoundTable welcomes two guest speakers, both specialists in their fields. On August 2 at 10:00 PM Eastern, meet Ellen Cannon Reed, author of THE GODDESS AND THE TREE and other books. Ellen will give an introduction to the Witches' Tarot and discuss her new work in progress. On August 17, talk with well-known palmist John Riggs. John offers an introduction to palmistry.

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have traded the paradigm of Ted Sturgeon's "Thunder and Roses" for bad limericks and Little Willie jokes. Mark K. is a working poet and maintains an excellent dynamic between "topicii" and the "topicus" in his online salon. If you're looking for a little wit and philosophy, you may want to check out Category 11, Topic4 in SFRT1 (Page 470).

The New Age RT (Page 1122) celebrated the publication of a new Witches' Tarot deck with a round table hosted by Ellen Cannon Reed, the deck's designer. The deck is accompanied by an explanatory treatise which Cameron wrote explaining its incorporated symbolism and motifs. Eugene Tiffany, the artist of the tarot sample we ran in the last Boardwatch, wrote me an interesting letter of comment explaining how his deck was designed. Apparently he started drawing the cards with pen and ink and eventually decided to go high tech, employing PC design software and a DTP service bureau.

The Windows I-Ching screenshot is from a curious shareware package I discovered in the NewAge software library. The shareware authors have linked readings from the book of Chinese oracular wisdom to interpretations slanted for Yuppie business decisions. When I asked the Oracle what it thought about such a use, the Windows Decision Track version yielded the following wisdom:

Work on What Has Been Spoiled

"For happiness is only a byproduct of function,
as light is a byproduct of the electric current running through the wires.

If the current does not run efficiently, the light does not come."

If you're wondering how the ancient Chinese sorcerers who wrote the I Ching happened to know about electricity, closer scrutiny will reveal that this is a passage from T.H. White, grafted on to the original text. The original Chinese poetry found in most common translations of the Tao D'I Ching has been supplanted by adaptations deemed more appropriate by the shareware programmers. Back when I was in college and pestering the Oracle for guidance, asking business questions would probably have netted me the

"Importunate Young Fool" hexagram, but maybe times have changed.

LIVEWIRE, GENie's online multimedia magazine, has a special feature, this month, devoted to educational services available on GENie. There are two divisions: the Education Round-



table (ERT) and the Computer Assisted Learning Center (CALC). The Education Roundtable (Page 405) functions as a source for teachers and course planners. It contains topical discussions of education issues: writing and critical thinking, validity of various course syllabi, etc. The ERT software library includes the text of several state education statutes, some teacher tools, and a variety of self-help tutorials for core academic subjects. The Computer Assisted Learning Center (Page 175) lets you take college-level courses online. The courses are offered in four quarters each year in eight different academic departments. Although course completion certificates don't automatically guarantee college credit, CALC has arrangements with a number of institutions to let students validate courses through qualifying examinations. These can be scheduled at local testing sites. There is a registration fee for courses taken for certification, but the homework help and tutoring sections of CALC are available to all GENie members for the cost of the online connect time.

This month has been a busy one for GENie's various computing roundtables. Now, even PC User Group meetings have been transformed into virtual events. The Microsoft RT played host to an Excel SIG meeting in August. The conference encapsulated the user group experience, complete with doorprizes and a presentation by Mark Dodge and Craig Stinson, the

authors of "Running Excel 5 for Windows." The Microsoft RT also has resident gurus on call for most Microsoft applications, including Visual BASIC. GENie's MIDI (Page 430) and Multimedia (Page 2000) RTs each hosted free "Hot Summer Nights" sessions. The MIDI RT holds ongoing weekly help sessions on Friday nights hosted by composer/sysop Steven McDonald. The Computer Game Design RT (Page 935) featured a conference on writing interactive game scripts with Christy Marx, who has authored/edited a number of popular games and TV show scripts.

The American West RT (Page 1065) sponsored a conference in August with Jacob Eagle Eyes, founder of Native Net. Native Net is a network of approximately 100 bulletin board systems owned by, or supported by, Native Americans. These systems are dedicated to forging nonconfrontational communication links between Native Americans and non-Native denizens of American cyberspace. Jacob Eagle Eyes also hosts a television show in Tampa Bay, Florida. His TV show blends traditional and contemporary Native American music with news and current affairs. The American West RT carries Wotanging Ikohe, a monthly FIDonet newsletter, which covers issues of concern to the Native American community and also publishes some good poetry. Maybe this one has relevance for the kids who hiked 15 miles in the mud to get to Woodstock II:

I have taken the stones
which the angry winds have thrown
I have gathered them
I have rolled them into the womb
I have taken sparks
from the thunder in the road
I have taken water
from the old woman's eyes
I have crawled inside
I have
eaten myself
I have grown strong

— Turtle Heart
(turtle@aicap.s21.com)

[Lenny Bailes is a PC consultant, writer and teacher living in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a contributing editor for Microtimes, a California computing magazine, and co-author of Byte's DOS Programmer's Cookbook.]

TELECONFUSION

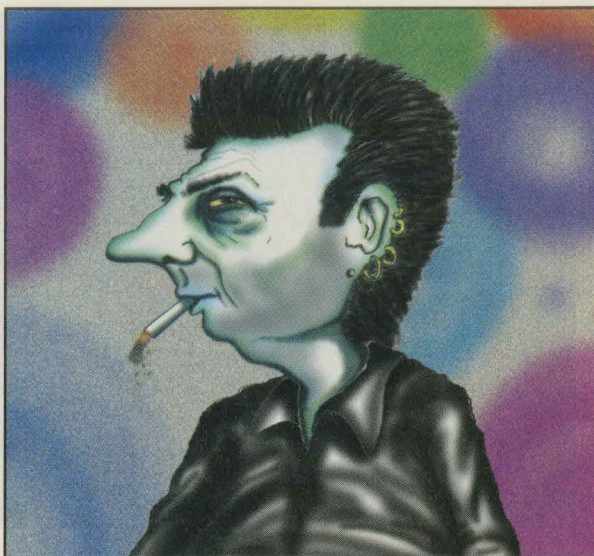
BOTTOM OF THE BARREL BBSs

Art and Text by Charles J. Moore

As we all know the September Issue of Boardwatch Magazine has been presenting the winners of the "Top 100 BBSs" for the last three years and it always turns out to be quite a contest. These are the pride of the industry and as a result, all the winners seem to be more than anxious to have their board show cased in the pages of this publication. Well, I thought the time was long overdue for us to recognize the Bulletin Board Systems that nobody ever hears about. With this thought in mind I set off on my electronic journey through Modemland and started dialing a few of these "lesser known" boards to see what is going on out there in the trenches. I must say I was overwhelmed (this expression leads me to believe that if a person can be "overwhelmed" then their normal state would be "whelmed" and extreme apathy would mean they are "underwhelmed", but I digress) by the amount of Bulletin Board Systems that go pretty much un-noticed by the online community. I do have to admit, not everyone that sets out to start a bulletin board system should bother, but for the most part I was impressed with the amount of imagination and hard work that these people put out in an effort to produce a successful system.

The following boards are just a few of these systems and by no means do they reflect the total effort put forth by all the sysops that nobody ever heard of. With names like "The Gearhead BBS," a small 2 line system in Deerbutt Indiana that boasts a special chat area for the Shadetree Mechanic; "Teds Online," this is a board that has a very specific list of callers...just guys named Ted; and I would be remiss if I did not mention "Guys with Guts BBS" - not a board meant for the brave adventurer, but is in actual fact a forum for dudes that have not seen their feet for the last 10 years. Granted, these are not the BBSs that are ever going to change the course of world history but I think they deserve an honorable mention for the hard work and focused energy that these fine folks put into their dream. My advice to these struggling sysops - stay with it, someday the world will really want to call a BBS that can tell

you the real names of all the actors that ever played one of those Farengeie dudes on Star Trek.



Sysop/Owner Rod Packer of the "Hey, you look like Keith Richards" BBS

This is one very tightly focused Bulletin Board System. I mean, how many people really look like the lead guitarist for the Stones? Moreover, who the hell would want to cop to it if they did? Well, as they say, there is something for everybody online. Boasting a "serious" four line system and utilizing his own "custom" (homemade) modem, Mr. Packer has set the standard for this type of audience. "I am always being told that I could be Keith Richards twin brother," he says, with a cigarette badly in need of ashing dangling loosely from his lower lip. With this thought in mind (or vacuum) Rod set out to find other people with the same common thread. So far there are more than a dozen regular callers - and that is only in the last eighteen months. "In fact we are all going to meet for a convention this fall and it should be a lot of fun," Packer said. "Think of it, a whole room full of Keith Richards." The convention will be held at the Highway

2 Motor Hotel in Mud Flap North Dakota, just a stone's throw from the statue of the sugar beet in the town square. "I could live anywhere in the country," he said, "but I was born a Mudflappian and this is home to me." If you are interested in file areas, this board has plenty to offer. With more than 40 megs of .GIF images of the famed guitarist doing what he does best - looking like hell but playing a half way decent guitar. This board is not for everyone but if you actually want to check it out (go figure) it can be reached by calling (777) 555-4224. By the way, make sure to call on voice line first (same number) so Mr. Packer can ready his system to receive your connection - something to

do with hanging up the phone in the garage and gettin' out the duct tape.

Sysop/Founder Tammi Tonwaddle of the Donut Dolly BBS

Situated in the basement of her "Rolling Donut Donut Shop" in the heart of downtown Cleveland, Tammi Tonwaddle went all out in the hope of meeting other Pastry Fans. With a background that includes a stint as a "Doughnut Dolly" for the local U.S.O. as well as appearing in the Broadway Musical, "Passion for the Frosted and



Filled," Ms. Tonwaddle is, without a doubt, the nation's leading authority on doughnuts and their history. Call this board and you will be greeted with a very detailed image of the "Donut of the Day." These are scanned images of actual paintings of the pastries that Tammi (who likes to call herself a part time artist) has been working on in her spare time. As these renderings will attest by their close attention to detail (right down to the smallest crumb sprinkle) this lady is not fooling around. So what could a BBS that is aimed at doughnut freaks have to offer? How about her "Really Fresh List"? This chart is updated every 2 hours and has a complete listing of the freshest doughnuts in your particular area code. That's not all, suppose you are traveling cross country and you want to sample the best doughnuts in any given town, NO PROBLEM. "I have set up a network of every doughnut shop in the US and can provide you with a complete travel map (I like to call it my Bearclaw Triptik) of the best, as well as the worst, in the world of deep fried fantasies," she said. When asked about the healthful aspects of this chosen endeavor all you get from this impish and elliptical little lady is a subtle smile and a slight giggle followed by one of her most oft used lines, "I think all this cholesterol stuff is just a lot of hype, I exercise on a regular basis, in fact this morning I did a sit-up and jogged across the room - TWICE!" As a note, be sure to check out the "History of the Donut" area on this unique sugar-coated board. Did you know that the doughnut was actually invented out of necessity? As the story goes it seems that Hannibal had one of his cooks come up with something that could be used as a quick repair for an O-ring problem he was experiencing with one of the elephants. Contact Info: Winchell's, Mister Donut, Cop's Cafe, and your local bakery among others.

Sysop/Owner Ernie "Squish" Brockman of the Jock Time BBS

If you are really - I mean REALLY into the world of sports, than this is the board for you. Deep in the inner city of Boston you will find a small, but well stocked, sporting goods store tucked away in an alley right next to the big



green dumpster behind the K-Mart on Wally St. At first glance you could miss this little piece of "Testronic Heaven," with never having known it was there. But once you walk through that door you'll never forget that locker room smell and the oversized sysop/owner, Ernie "Squish" Brockman, towering behind the counter. "I was an all county defensive lineman in highschool and I just could not get the sporting thing out of my blood." After a six year tour in the army, where he was assigned to the third army supply group as a warehouse specialist in Ft. Dix N.J., it was off to school with the help of his G.I. bill.

"I wanted to learn something about computers so I enrolled at the Ned Bernie School of Computer Science and Stump Blasting in Stumbly Row New York," he said. This move proved to be a turning point in his life. After graduation there was only one thing to do, "Somehow I wanted to combine my love of sports and my vast knowledge of computers and make a darn good living at it." The rest is, as they say, history. I've paid my dues, he says, it was not an easy task to start both a sporting goods store and a quality BBS at the same time. To simplify things he concentrates only on what he terms real sports: Football, Baseball, Hockey and of course Pro Wrestling. You will never see any of those Girlie Boy Sports on my board, he continues, stuff like Soccer and Golf is OK if you are one of those New Age Sensitive Guys, but as far as I'm concerned if you ain't gonna take the risk of maybe doin'

some permanent bone or joint damage then it ain't a real sport. There are some pretty interesting areas on the board, for example, "Sports Trivia with a twist" is a favorite for many of his callers. "Let me lay one on ya," he says enthusiastically, a sweat breaking across his brow. "Who was the first professional hockey player to complete a season after having his entire frontal lobe matter removed with a bottle opener?" You are going to have to call in to find out the answer to that one. With everything from sports trivia to .GIF images of your favorite sports stars in action, this is the true "Jock Online" setup. If you are wondering about the nickname "Squish" the reply to this question was short and to the point. "When I was in High School I had this really bad problem with acne and the guys that played across the line from me came up with it." For more information call (912)555-GAME

Sysop/Owner Al "Shifty" Vascelli of the Babe Market BBS

"Hey, if you're lookin' for fleshtone files, we got em!" This is a gross understatement, to say the least. With over 450 Gigs of nothing but butt, (Bitmapped Babes) this proves to be one sleazy board. From the log on menu to the exit command it was all I could do to keep my ham sandwich from making the trip back up. With a background that includes five years as a used car salesman and a couple years pushing vacuums door to door, the logical progression to "Cybersleaze" seems to have been reached by Mr. Vascelli. "I have kept to a pretty ridged business plan since starting this board," Vascelli said. "My goal from the beginning has been to provide quality images at a reasonable price." I thought I'd take a



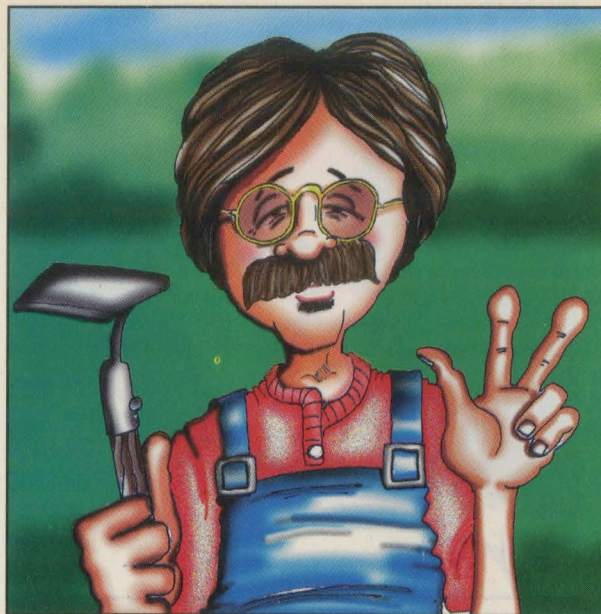
look at these pics for myself, strictly in the name of journalistic integrity. I was not surprised to find that they were actually low res scans of some rather poor Polaroids. I was also pretty well shocked by the fact that about eighty five percent of these images were in black and white. "I sure do catch a lot of flack from people about da black and white thing and to tell ya da truth, I guess some people just don't understand art. I mean, how bout dis Ansel Adams guy? He puts out some black and white pictures of rocks and trees and the world goes nuts for em - I just don't get it." Well Shifty, I bet you never will either.

Al got introduced to the telecommunications world when he was (as he calls it) "a fine jewelry representative for a franchise importer." In truth he was selling gold chains by the foot at the mall. As fate would have it, his booth was directly across from a Radio Shack and they had a computer set up with a modem. After closing one night while having a beer with the salesman he was shown a few .GIF files from a local BBS in his home town of Baileyville Illinois. "Well, that did it, I thought this has got to be the better mousetrap, I mean think about it, all I have to do is get me some of these pictures and sell them to these computer guys and I can make a bundle." I never did ask Mr. Vascelli where he obtained his images or models for these images but I have my doubts as to there being any connection to the word professional, at least in the model sense. "I don't care what the rest of the world does - I provide a service to my callers and it is all covered by my constitutional rights, I think it's the 53rd amendment (or one of dem amendments) that says we have the right to look at pictures of naked babes...Gimme a Break!"

From his bad looking rug (the only thing that would make it look more obvious is a chin strap) to his five pounds of nugget jewelry, "Shifty" Vascelli is going places, more than likely for at least 10 to 12 years. Contact Info: Not Available at this time, pending investigation

Sysop/Owner Edward "BUD" Snipeman of the Humboldt County BBS and Trail Mix Cafe

This was a pretty tough board to contact but I finally did get through. After several long minutes of blank air time I was greeted with a sound file that sounded like a solo mandolin



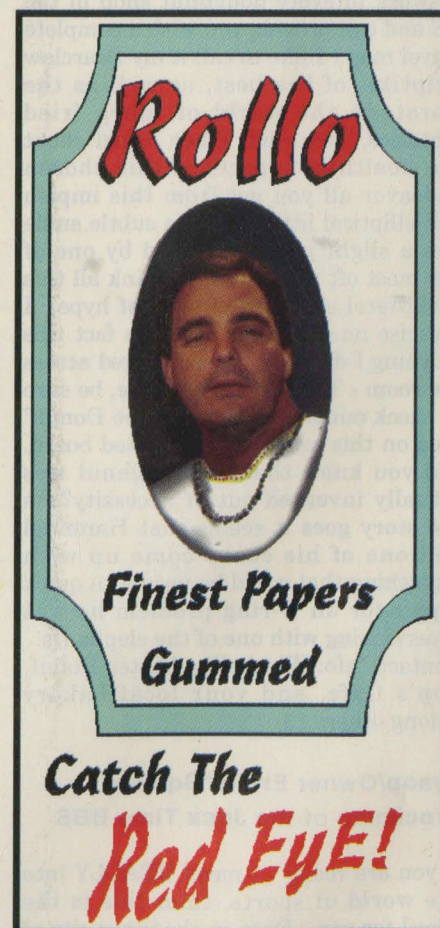
version of "Stairway to Heaven" as it turns out that is exactly what it was. Seems that the sysop, Edward "Bud" Snipeman, has a dream to some day play on-stage with Jimmy Page. He said, "I think I was a musician in one of my past lives and it feels right to play.

"I like the classics, anything by Hendrix or Pete Townsend is O.K., I still wonder what happened to Elton John though, I mean really, a duet with Kiki Dee?, musta been bad karma." This is one unusual board all the way around. Let's start with location. Based in the backwoods of Northern California's Humboldt County it is not easy to find any signs of life. I must say however, I can not recall ever seeing a more fertile BBS...Bar None! This board has more areas than I can even start to describe, How about this... "The complete works of Hunter S. Thompson." This is not just all of Dr. Thompson's published works but things like phone scribbles, EEG strips and even copies of parking tickets issued to the author for such legal infractions as parking on the steps of the Las Vegas City Hall. This is only a fraction of the obscure files that can be accessed on this board.

Looking for a cheap way to travel? Did you know that if you show up at the airport in a pair of white coveralls and just hang out for awhile and act like you are sweeping the floor or emptying the trash you can actually go on-board a plane that is bound for your particular destination and hide in the cargo hold area. May not be first class but it is free! Found this one in the "Travel Tips" area. Boasting the "World's largest collection of Granola Recipes" and "101

ways to get high on stuff you can buy at the super-market," it looks like Bud Snipeman has pretty well cornered the market on the sixties generation. If you are looking for a board that is loaded (no pun intended) you might give the Humboldt County BBS and Trail Mix Cafe a call or as Bud likes to say "Catch The Red Eye."

To contact the board, take a Oujii board and place any standard modem underneath it. While meditating, repeat, "There's nothing like homegrown ...there's nothing like home-grown."



DIRECT DIAL

THIS MONTH: 506 TECHNICAL/PRODUCT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

by Brian Gallagher

Bulletin Board System lists come in many sizes and varieties with as many different focuses. A large number of them encompass an area code or region particularly helpful to those within who enjoy not paying exorbitant long distance rates. Other lists are specialized towards a particular industry or avocation, (i.e. medical, government, software platform or operating system, climbing, fishing etc.). Among the limitless lists available on a panoply of subjects, there are very few with as broad an appeal to the online community as Gary Barr's Technical Support BBS list sporting 506 systems.

When Barr first started keeping the list in November 1991 there were around 40 tech support boards in existence that he could find. Since then, the interest and practicality of technical support through an online medium has caught on among the major hardware and software manufacturers leading to an explosion of the systems - all of which Barr has tenaciously tracked. Of course he does get some help with this formidable task, many companies are careful to contact him when they open up a new system or inform him of phone number or other changes on their existing systems.

In fact Barr's list is required reading and reference material for several corporation's technical support personnel. Then, if for example, a caller's difficulty is not with the device or software they were inquiring about, rather a problem with a driver - the tech can refer the caller to the right place to get the driver they need.

First enticed by computers in the sixth grade, Barr followed his fascination through to fruition, and just before graduating high school, quit his job at a computer retail store and opened up his own in 1987. Along with high school sweetheart, Danica, now wife and co-sysop for the last year and a half, he has managed to build the business into a profitable enterprise selling hardware and software with brisk sales in CD ROMs.

It was his business, Computers by Design, that pushed him into keeping the list in the first place. "In my business," he said, "people needed product support for this and that, I figured it would be a pretty good idea to keep (the list) and share it with everybody." It turned out to be a really good idea. Comprised of approximately half hardware and half software companies, the list has spread in fame largely through word of mouth with 500 to 600 downloads every month, from all over the world.

For those wanting a copy of the list, it can be found on his 14-line Digicom BBS, (812)479-1310 in Evansville Indiana - (The board is in no way connected to Digicom Systems in Milpitas California). From the main menu push "D" for Digicom Publications - the list is titled "SUPRT 409.ZIP" where the "4" is the last digit in the current year, and "09" represents the month the list was updated, which is every month. Barr has been running his Remote Access system since May 1985, making it one of the longer running systems around. It is set up on a Novell LAN with a 486/66 file server and 14 386/33s - one for each node, with accompanying V.Everything U.S.Robotics modems.

With 15 gigabytes of online files, (12 of these are from a Pioneer 18 disk CD ROM changer), Barr stresses the message bases are where the real action is on his system. When it does come to files, however, it is the adult files that tend to be downloaded most often. A Remote Access beta test site, Barr is also well stocked in files particularly targeted towards sysops - doors, test drivers and the like, to the tune of 500 MB.

His board also has a large game playing contingency and carries several "good reads" including USA Today, Genesys



**Gary and Danica Barr with their Digicom BBS
of Evansville, IN**

Daily News and Roger Ebert's movie reviews and celebrity interviews.

For the future of the board, Barr is looking to add 300 newsgroups via a Planet Connect satellite feed. For the future of the list Barr is thinking about making a more comprehensive version with addresses, phone and fax numbers and other available contact information in a database format. While the current list is free, the all inclusive list (which he has received numerous requests for), would require quite a bit more work, and he is thinking of charging a yearly subscription fee of \$5.

There is no mandatory fee for Barr's BBS leaving the list open to all who need it, but they will be limited to one half hour per day on the system. For an annual fee of \$25 callers receive two hours per day, and \$40 annually gives callers four hours per day and full access to all the CD ROMs, (i.e. adult).

As far as lists go, you'll be hard pressed to find one that is more useful or popular than Barr's product support list; and a word to the wise - don't expect to just jump right on his system and grab it, 14 lines just isn't quite cutting it. For those who can't obtain the list for whatever reason, the Barr's will send a copy of the list to all who send a self addressed stamped envelope. Gary Barr, the Digicom BBS, and the product support list; The Digicom BBS, 4600 Vogel Road, Evansville, IN 47715; (812)474-0910 voice; (812)474-2264 fax; (812)479-1310 BBS.

LIST OF 506 TECHNICAL/PRODUCT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

List courtesy of Gary Barr, Digicom BBS 812-479-1310

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 3Com | 408-980-8204 | Network Cards | Boca Research | 407-241-1601 | Memory Cards, Modems |
| 3rd Planet Software, Inc | 213-841-2260 | Network Assist Plus | Borland | 408-439-9096 | C, Quattro, dBASE |
| Abacus Concepts | 616-698-8106 | Statview, Supernova Mac | Bottom Line Software, Inc | 214-394-4170 | Loan Accting & Calc Software |
| Abaton Technology | 510-226-9694 | Laser Printer, Scanner | Bourbaki | 208-342-5823 | Fractools |
| Above Software | 714-851-5102 | Above Disc, Golden Retriever | Broderbund | 415-883-5889 | Printshop & Others |
| Access Software | 801-364-7449 | Links & Other Games | Brightbill Roberts | 315-472-1058 | LAN Server, Net Remote |
| Accolade | 408-296-8800 | Gaming Software | Brightwork Development | 914-667-4759 | Networking Utilities |
| Accton Technology | 510-226-9832 | Networking Products | Brown Bag Software | 408-371-7654 | Powermenu |
| Ace Software | 408-451-0571 | Home Office Org., Post Office | Buerg Software | 707-778-8944 | List Software |
| Activision | 310-820-1276 | Activision Games | Bureau Of Electronic Publ | 201-808-0085 | Educational CDROMs |
| Adaptec | 408-945-7727 | Controllers | Buttonware | 206-454-7875 | Pcfile, Pccalc, Pcwrite |
| Addstor | 415-365-2510 | Superstor | Cabletron | 603-335-4803 | Network Cards |
| Advanced Digital Corp | 714-894-0893 | SCSI Control, Tape Backups | Calcomp | 714-236-3045 | Digitizers |
| Advanced Gravis Computer | 604-431-5927 | Entertainment Hardware | Calera Recognition Systems | 408-773-9068 | OCR Software |
| Advanced Logical Research | 714-458-6834 | ALR Computer Systems | Campbell Services | 313-559-6434 | Ontime Scheduler |
| All Computer | 416-960-8679 | Motherboards | Canon Computer Systems Inc | 714-438-3325 | Canon Computers |
| Alloy Computer Products | 508-486-4044 | Storage Devices | Canon Printer Division | 516-488-6528 | Laser, Bubble Jet Printers |
| Allied Telesis | 415-964-2994 | Networking | Canon Printer (Italy) | +39-2-58010997 | Laser, Bubble Jet Printers |
| Alpha Software | 617-229-2915 | Alpha Database | Capstone | 305-471-8962 | Educational, Entertainment Sftw |
| Altima | 510-356-2456 | Laptops | Cardinal Technologies | 717-293-3074 | Cardinal Modems/FAX |
| Altsys | 214-680-8592 | Fontographer | Cardz | 604-734-5400 | Fracterm Comm Software |
| Amdek Corporation | 408-922-4400 | Monitors | Castelle | 408-496-1807 | LAN, Gateway Hardware |
| American Megatrends (AMI) | 404-246-8780 | AMI BIOS, Motherboards | CBIS, Inc | 404-446-0485 | Network, CDROM Sharing |
| American Small Business Co | 918-825-4878 | Designcad | cc:Mail | 415-691-0401 | CC:Mail E-Mail |
| Apogee Software | 508-365-2359 | Games, Keen, Secret Agent | Central Point | 503-690-6650 | PC Tools |
| Applied Engineering | 214-241-6677 | FAX/Modem, Fastmath | Certus | 408-973-9834 | Supernovi |
| Arsenal Computer | 913-234-9395 | Arsenal & Ero Tek CDROM | Cheyenne Software | 516-484-3445 | Netware Tape Backups |
| Artisoft | 602-884-8648 | Lantastic Networking | Chinon America | 310-320-4160 | CDROM, Floppy Drives |
| Artist Graphics | 612-631-7669 | Command Center | Chipsoft | 619-550-5018 | Memory |
| Ask Sam Systems | 904-584-8287 | Ask Sam LAN | Chwatal Development Co | 318-487-0800 | Ultrabbs |
| Aspen Peripherals | 503-286-9620 | Aspen Peripherals Modems | Cirrus Logic Corp | 408-943-4179 | Video Boards |
| Asymetrix | 206-451-1173 | Multimedia Software | Citizens America Corp | 310-453-7564 | Printers |
| AST Research | 714-727-4132 | Computer Systems | Citrix Systems | 305-346-9004 | Networking Software |
| AST Research Canada | 905-512-8558 | Computer Systems | Clarion Software | 305-785-2594 | Report Writer |
| ATI Technologies | 905-756-4591 | Video Cards, Modems | Clarix Corp | 408-987-7421 | Filemaker/clarisworks |
| AT&T Computer Systems | 908-769-6397 | Computers | Clark Development Corp | 801-261-8976 | Pcboard Bbs Software |
| Aurora Terra | 301-230-1214 | Aurora Terra | Clear Software | 617-965-5406 | Clear, All Clear |
| Autodesk Inc | 415-289-2270 | Animator, Graphic Products | Cleo Communications | 313-996-1213 | Lan & Multiuser Boards |
| Automated Design Systems | 404-394-7448 | Windows Workstation | CMS Enhancements | 714-222-6601 | Hardware, Drives |
| Avatar | 404-740-8428 | Networking Hardware IBM, Mac | CNET | 408-954-1787 | Networking |
| Award | 408-371-3139 | BIOS | Coconut Computing Inc | 619-456-0815 | Coconet Bbs Software |
| Beagle Bros | 801-226-1605 | Beagle Works, Timeout | Codenoll | 914-965-1972 | Networking Boards |
| Best Power Technology | 608-565-7424 | Power Products & Accessories | Colorado Memory Systems | 303-635-0650 | Tape Backups |
| Bestgift Service | 813-978-3044 | Gift Selection Software | Columbia Data Products | 407-862-4724 | Scsi Drv'S For Wd-7000 |
| Bethesda Software | 301-990-7552 | Educational, Recreational Sftw | Communications Research | 708-933-5333 | Terminal Emulators |
| Big State Doors | 512-376-5644 | BBS Door Software | Compaq Computer Systems | 713-378-1418 | Compaq Drivers & Utils |
| Bit Software | 510-490-6637 | BitFAX | Complete PC | 408-434-9703 | Modems,fax,scanners |
| Blackmond Software | 505-589-0319 | RAMail, CCTRX | Comprehensive Video Supply | 201-767-7990 | Edit, Log, Script Master |

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|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Compton's New Media | 619-929-2597 | Multimedia Products | E D S Development | 812-423-3394 | Eds Software Programs |
| Computers International | 213-823-3609 | Online Shopping Software | Elan Software | 310-459-3443 | Goldmine Software |
| Computer Peripherals | 805-499-9646 | Modems | Elite Business App's | 410-987-2335 | Ramjet |
| Computer Support | 214-404-8652 | Arts & Letters Software | Emac/Everex | 510-226-9694 | Trackball, Modem |
| Computone | 404-343-9737 | Intelligent Serial Card | Emerald Systems | 619-673-4617 | Data Management |
| Control | 612-631-9310 | Intelligent Serial Card | Enable Software | 518-877-6316 | Enable Business Software |
| Conner International | 408-456-4415 | Hard Drives | Envisio | 612-633-0051 | Macintosh Storage Units |
| Conner Peripherals | 407-263-3502 | Peripherals | Epson America, Inc | 310-782-4531 | Epson Computer Products |
| Core International | 407-241-2929 | Hard Drives | Equinox Systems, Inc | 305-791-1633 | Multiport Comm Ports |
| Corel System | 613-728-4752 | Corel Draw | eSoft Inc | 303-699-8222 | TBBS BBS Software |
| Cornerstone | 408-435-8943 | Single/dual Pg Monitor | ETS Incorporated | 801-265-0919 | GUI & Laser Printer Apps |
| Corvus System, Inc | 408-972-9154 | Net Software | Excalibur | 408-244-0813 | Vsumx Virus Software |
| CoStar | 203-661-6292 | Address Writer/labeler | EZX Publishing | 713-280-8180 | EZ-Form, EZ-Diskcopy |
| Covox Corpoartion | 503-342-8261 | Sound Cards | Family Scrapbook | 904-249-9515 | Family Scrapbook |
| Creative Labs | 405-742-6660 | Soundblaster Music Card | Farallon Computing | 510-865-1321 | Networking Products |
| Cross Communications | 303-444-9003 | Cross Connect | Fifth Generation Systems | 504-295-3344 | Fastback, London Bridge |
| Crystal Services | 604-681-9516 | Software | Folio | 801-375-9907 | Mailbag |
| CTX International | 909-594-8973 | Monitors | Foresight Resources | 816-891-8465 | Drafix Cadd Software |
| Cumulus | 216-464-3019 | Memory, Boards | Frederick Engineering, Inc | 301-290-6944 | Datacomm Analyzer |
| Cyrix Corporation | 214-680-3187 | Cyrix Cpu'S & Mathco'S | Fresh Technology | 602-497-4235 | Map Assist, Network Software |
| DAC Software | 214-931-6617 | Dac Easy Accounting | Future Domain | 714-253-0432 | Tape Backups |
| DAK Online Resource Center | 818-715-7153 | All Dak Products | FutureSoft Engineering | 713-588-6870 | Dynacomm |
| Dariana Technology Group | 714-994-7410 | System Sleuth | Galacticomm | 305-583-7808 | Major BBS Software |
| Darwin Systems | 301-251-9206 | Darwin Bbs List | GammaLink | 408-745-2216 | GammaFAX, Addon Boards |
| Data Access | 305-238-0640 | Dataflex | GAP Development Company | 714-493-3819 | GAP BBS Software |
| Datadesk/Prometheus | 503-691-5199 | Keyboards/trackballs | Gateway BBS | 605-232-2109 | Gateway Computers |
| DataEase Int'l | 203-374-6302 | Dataease,graftalk | Gateway Communications | 714-863-7097 | Network Hardware |
| Dataman | 407-649-3159 | Dataman Products | Gazelle Systems | 801-375-2548 | Backit, Optune, Q-DOS |
| Dataproducs Corp | 818-887-8167 | Dataproducs Printers | GEcho | 316-263-5313 | Fido Mail Processor |
| Datastorm | 314-875-0503 | Procomm Plus | General DataComm Ind | 203-598-0593 | Modem, Multiplexors, LAN |
| DataWatch | 919-491-1602 | Citadel,screentalk,vitex | GENie Information Services | 800-638-8369 | GENie Online Service |
| Data Technology | 408-942-4010 | Hd Controllers | Genicom | 703-949-1576 | Printers & Hardware |
| David Systems | 408-720-0406 | Networking Hardware | Genoa Systems | 408-943-1231 | Tape Backups |
| Dayna Communications | 801-268-7389 | Localtalk,e-net For Mac | Gensoft Development | 206-562-9407 | Supercalc |
| DCA | 404-740-8428 | Crosstalk/irma | GeoWorks | 510-549-1884 | GEOworks |
| DEC PC Support | 508-496-8800 | Dec Computers | GeoClock | 703-241-7980 | GEOclock Software |
| Dell Computer Corp | 512-338-8528 | Dell Mail Order Clones | Gibson Research | 714-362-8848 | Spinrite |
| Delphi | 800-365-4636 | Delphi Online Service | GigaTrend, Inc | 619-931-9469 | High Capacity Hard Drive |
| Delrina Technology Inc | 416-441-2752 | Fax & Forms Software | Global Village Comm | 415-390-8334 | Teleport,powerport |
| DeltaComm Development | 919-481-9399 | Telix Comm Software | GoldDisk | 416-602-7534 | Anim. Works, Video Dir. |
| DeScribe | 916-929-3237 | Describe Word Processor | Goldstar Technologies | 408-432-0236 | Monitors & Computers |
| Diagnostic Technologies | 905-607-6570 | Diags & Schematics | Graphic Workshop | 416-729-4609 | Graphic Workshop Program |
| DiagSoft | 408-438-8997 | Qaplus, Peace Of Mind | Great American Software | 603-889-7292 | One-Write Plus Acct |
| Diamond Computer | 408-524-9301 | Video Boards | Gupta Technologies, Inc | 415-617-4700 | SQL Windows |
| Digiboard | 612-943-0812 | Intelligent Serial Card | GVC Technologies | 201-579-2380 | Modems |
| Digital Communications | 513-433-5080 | 10-net | Gwynn's Communications | 703-494-0098 | Communications Drivers |
| Digital Research | 408-649-3443 | Dr Dos | Hayes Microcomputer | 800-874-2937 | Modems |
| Digital Theatre | 404-446-0485 | CDROM M/media Apps | Hayes Microcomputer | 404-446-6336 | Modems |
| Digital Vision | 617-329-8387 | Video Imaging | Hazard Soft | 405-243-3200 | Windows Software |
| Disk Technician Corporation | 619-272-9240 | Disk Technician Gold | HDC Computer | 206-869-2418 | Windows Env Software |
| Disney Software | 818-567-4027 | Kids Software | Helic Software | 718-392-4054 | Netroom Software |
| Distributed Processing Tech | 407-831-6432 | Controller Cards | Hercules Computer | 510-623-7449 | Memory Exp, Video Cards |
| D-Link Systems, Inc | 714-455-1779 | Network Print Server | Hewlett Packard BBS | 208-344-1691 | Printers, Computers, Software |
| DNA Networks, Inc | 215-296-9558 | Micronet Network | Hyundai Electronics Amer | 800-955-5432 | Monitors |
| Dove Computer | 919-343-5616 | Modems, FAX Boards | IBM | 919-517-0001 | IBM Computer Products |
| DSP Solutions | 415-494-1621 | Portable Sound+ / Show&tell | IBM Canada | 905-316-4244 | IBM Computer Products |
| DTK Computer Inc Of Texas | 713-568-9941 | Motherboards, I/O Cards | IBM AntiVirus Netherlands | +31-79-223300 | IBM Antivirus |
| Dudley Software | 615-966-3574 | Doorway Software | Intelligent Graphics Corp | 408-441-0386 | VM386, Multitasking |
| Dynamic Microprocessor | 516-462-6638 | Computer CPUs | IMC Networks | 714-724-0930 | LAN Network Equipment |
| E-Machines | 408-541-6190 | Monitors, Video Hardware | IMSI Software | 415-454-2893 | Desktop Publishing |
| Eagle Technology | 408-453-0734 | Network Products | Infinity Computer Services | 215-965-8028 | Bar Code Products |
| EagleSoft | 812-479-1310 | Shoppers Asst, Callaway | Infochip Systems | 408-727-2496 | Memory |

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|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Informix | 913-492-2089 | Smartware, Informix | Meridian Data | 408-439-9509 | Networks |
| InfoShare | 703-803-8000 | Falken BBS Software | Micro Display Systems | 612-438-3513 | Monitors |
| Innovative Data Concepts | 215-357-4183 | TCZL | Micro Help | 404-516-1497 | Uninstaller |
| Inset Corporation | 203-740-0063 | Hijaak Graphic Conversn | Micro Solutions | 815-756-9100 | Parallal Hard, Tape Drives |
| Insignia Solutions | 415-694-7694 | Access PC, Soft PX | Microcom | 617-255-1125 | Carbon Copy, Workmanager |
| Intel | 503-645-6275 | Mathco, Modem, FAX, Chips | Microdyne | 703-760-8509 | Network Hardware |
| Intel Application Support | 916-356-3600 | Intel Motherboards | Micron Technology | 208-465-7755 | Micron Computers |
| InterPlay Productions | 714-252-2822 | Entertainment Software | Micronics | 510-651-6837 | Computer, Motherboards |
| Intracorp | 305-378-8793 | Travel Partnet | Micropolis Corp | 818-709-3310 | Hard Drives |
| Iomega | 801-778-4400 | Tape Backups | Microrim | 206-649-9836 | R:base |
| IQ Software | 206-821-5486 | LAN & Multiuser Boards | MicroProse | 410-785-1841 | Gaming Software |
| Irwin Magnetics | 407-263-3662 | Tape Backups | Microspeed | 510-490-1664 | Peripherals |
| Jetfax | 415-324-1259 | Jetfax Boards | Microsoft | 206-936-6735 | Microsoft Software |
| Jetform | 613-563-2894 | Jetform Design | Microsoft | 905-507-3022 | Microsoft Software |
| JDR Microdevices | 408-494-1430 | Mail Order Componets | Microsystems Software | 508-875-8009 | Calander Scheduler |
| Kent Marsh | 713-522-8921 | Mac Security Software | Microtech | 203-469-6430 | Mac Memory |
| Kenwood Italy | 39-229516558 | Kenwood Amatuer Radio | MicroTek Lab | 310-297-5102 | Scanners |
| Keyfile | 603-883-5968 | Keyfile Software | Microtest | 602-996-4009 | Lanport |
| Kingston Technology | 714-435-2636 | Memory Products | Mitsubishi | 714-236-6286 | Monitors |
| Knowledge Adventure | 818-248-0166 | Educational Software | Mountain Network Solutions | 408-438-2665 | Tape Backups |
| Kodiak Technology | 510-659-0857 | Network Hardware | Mouse Systems (MSC) | 510-683-0617 | Mouse |
| Kurta Corp | 602-243-9440 | Digitizer Boards | Multi-Tech Systems | 612-785-9875 | Modems |
| LAN Master | 817-771-0233 | Remote Access Software | Mustang Software | 805-873-2400 | Wildcat, QModem, OLX |
| LAN Systems | 801-373-6980 | Networking Hardware | Mutant Group | 405-372-6621 | Mutant BBS Software |
| LAN Works | 416-238-0253 | Proms | Mustek Inc | 714-453-1210 | Scanner Products |
| Laser Go | 619-450-9370 | Goscript | Mylex | 510-793-3491 | Motherboards |
| Laser Master | 612-835-5463 | Laser Printer Software | National Semiconductor | 408-245-0671 | Ethernode, Mainlink |
| Lattice | 708-916-1200 | Lattice Software | NCD Distribution | 305-599-0749 | Full Product Line |
| Leading Edge | 508-836-3971 | Computer Systems | NEC Technologies | 508-635-4706 | Computer, Printers |
| Lexmark | 606-232-5238 | Printers, Keyboards | Network Products Corp | 818-441-6933 | NCSI, ACS2, NMP2, XCS2 |
| Liant Software | 206-236-6485 | Language Software | NetWorth | 214-869-2959 | Ethernet Cards |
| Lightning Communications | 714-457-9429 | Communications Software | New Media Graphics | 508-453-0214 | Video Capture Boards |
| Link Technologies | 510-623-6680 | Terminals | NewGen | 714-641-3869 | Printers, Plotters |
| LlanoWare Doors | 805-264-0443 | Ra BBS Doors & Utils | Night Owl BBS | 716-881-5688 | Night Owl CDROM Disk |
| Locus Computing | 310-337-5995 | Software, Comm., Network | NISCA | 214-446-0646 | Scanners |
| Logical Connection | 504-295-3344 | Logical Connection | Northgate | 612-361-5217 | Northgate Computer Systems |
| Logitech | 510-795-0408 | Mouse, Scanners | Norton-Lambert | 805-683-2249 | Close-Up/LAN |
| Lotus | 617-693-7001 | Lotus Spreadsheet | Novell | 801-429-3308 | Novell Networking |
| Lotus | 404-395-7707 | Lotus Word Processing | Novell Desktop Systems | 408-649-3443 | Computers |
| Lucid | 214-994-8125 | Lucid 3D | Nuiq Software Inc | 914-833-1479 | Powerboard BBS Software |
| Mace, Paul Software | 503-482-7435 | Mace Utilities | Number Nine | 617-862-7502 | Advanced Video |
| Madge Networks | 408-955-0262 | Token-ring Products | Ocean Isle Software | 407-778-2407 | Rewritable Disk Drives |
| Magee Enterprises, Inc | 404-446-6650 | Automenu, Treeview | OCR Systems | 215-938-7245 | Readright |
| Magitronic Technology | 516-454-8262 | Motherboards | Okidata | 609-234-5344 | Printers |
| Magnavox | 310-532-6436 | Computers, Monitors | Olicom | 214-422-9835 | LAN & Multiuser Boards |
| Main Lan | 407-331-7433 | Mainlan | Omen Technology | 503-621-3746 | DSZ - Zmodem Protocol |
| Mannesman Tally | 206-251-5513 | Printer Access | Ontrack Computer Systems | 612-937-0860 | Hd Prep. Software |
| Mansfield Software Group | 203-429-3784 | Kedit For DOS & OS/2 | Open Network | 718-638-2239 | Networking |
| Manugistics | 301-984-5222 | Software | Orchid Technology | 510-683-0555 | Video Cards |
| Manx Software Systems | 201-542-2793 | Aztec C | Origin | 512-328-8402 | Gaming Software |
| Martek | 714-453-1210 | Scanners | Pacific Data Products | 619-452-6329 | Laser Printer Products |
| MASS Microsystems | 408-522-1248 | Storage Devices | Pacific Microelectronics | 415-941-9699 | Mac-in-dos, Common Link |
| Masterclip Graphics | 305-967-9453 | Business Graphics Software | Packard Bell | 818-313-8601 | Computer Systems |
| Mathematica | 813-683-6840 | Mathematica Software | Palindrome | 708-505-3336 | Network Software |
| Matrix Technology | 617-569-3787 | Software | Panasonic | 201-863-7845 | Printers, Scanners, CPUs |
| Maxi Host Support | 209-836-2402 | Maxi Host BBS Software | Paperback Corporation | 415-644-0782 | Software |
| Maxis Software | 510-254-3869 | SIMEarth, SIMCity, SIMAnt | Paradise Systems | 714-753-1234 | Video Cards |
| Maxtor/Miniscribe | 303-678-2020 | Hard Drives | Patton & Patton Software | 408-778-9697 | Flow Charting Software |
| Maynard Electronics | 407-263-3502 | Tape Backups | Pentax Technologies | 303-460-1637 | Scanners, Laser Printers |
| McAfee Assoc | 408-988-5138 | Virus Protection | Peripheral Land | 510-651-5948 | Data Storage Products |
| Media Vision | 510-770-0968 | Multimedia Products | Persoft Software | 608-273-6595 | Smart Term Software |
| Megahertz | 801-273-6649 | Modems | Phoenix Technologies | 714-453-8619 | Motherboard BIOS |

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|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Pinnacle Publishing | 206-251-6217 | Data Storage Products | TheSoft Programming | 415-581-3019 | TheDraw Ansi Software |
| Pinpoint Publishing | 707-523-0468 | Micro Cookbook | Thomas Conrad | 512-836-8012 | Networking Cards |
| Pioneer Software | 919-851-1381 | Q & E Software | Thumper Technologies | 918-627-0059 | EZ-Reader |
| PKWare | 414-354-8670 | Pkzip Compression | Thunderbyte USA | 302-732-6399 | Thunderbyte Anti-Virus |
| PLI | 510-651-5948 | Removable Media | Tiara Computer Systems | 415-966-8533 | Networking Cards |
| Plus Development | 408-434-1664 | Hard Drives | Timeline Software | 415-892-0408 | Schedulers |
| Polaris Software | 619-592-2674 | Packrat Software | Timeslips | 508-768-7581 | Timeslips Software |
| Powercore | 815-468-2633 | Network Sched 3/ WinMail | Tool Technology | 415-289-7414 | Wintools |
| Practical Peripherals | 805-496-4445 | Modems | Tops microsystems | 510-769-8774 | Network OS, E-mail |
| Priam Systems | 408-434-1646 | Hard Drives | TopSoft Software | 502-425-9941 | BBS Doors, Toped |
| Princeton Graphic Systems | 404-664-1210 | Monitors | Toshiba Printer Products | 714-538-3000 | Printers |
| Procom Technologies | 714-852-1305 | Hardware Support | TouchStone Software | 714-969-0688 | Check It Software |
| Prometheus Products | 503-691-5199 | Fax, Modems | Trantor Systems | 510-656-5159 | Parallel SCSI, Videocard |
| Promise Tech | 408-452-1267 | Caching Disk Controllers | Traveling Software | 206-485-1736 | Laplink, Battery Watch |
| Proteon | 508-366-7827 | Networking Boards | Trident Microsystems | 415-691-1016 | VGA Cards |
| Public Brand Software | 317-856-2087 | Shareware Software | Trio Information Systems | 919-846-4987 | Datafax OCR |
| Pure Data | 214-242-3225 | Networking Boards | Triton Technologies | 908-855-9609 | CO/Session |
| Qmail | 901-382-5583 | Qmail Offline Reader | Trius | 508-794-0762 | Aseasyas Spreadsheet |
| QMS | 205-633-3632 | Printers | True Vision | 317-577-8783 | Display Accelerator |
| Quadram | 404-564-5678 | Memory Software | TSR Systems | 516-331-6682 | Palcom-paradox Compiler |
| Qualitas | 301-907-8030 | 386max & Bluemax | Tseng Labs, Inc | 215-579-7536 | Tseng Video Products |
| Quantum | 408-894-3214 | Hard Disk Storage | Turbo Tax | 619-453-5232 | Turbotax Software |
| Quarterdeck Office Systems | 310-314-3227 | Qemm386 | TurboCom | 503-482-2633 | Comm Driver For Windows |
| Quercus Systems | 408-867-7488 | Rexxterm | Turtle Beach | 717-845-4835 | Windows Software |
| Quess Micro | 719-597-8670 | Telemagic & Add-ons | UltraStor | 510-623-9091 | Mass Storage Interface |
| QuickBBS | 407-896-0494 | Quickbbs BBS Software | Unicorn Software | 317-784-2147 | Unicorn Software |
| Racal Interlan/Rabbit Soft | 508-264-4345 | Networking Cards | UniNova Service Corp | 509-925-3893 | Hardware, Software |
| Race | 305-271-2146 | Race User Editor (ra) | US Robotics | 708-982-5092 | Modems |
| Rams' Island Software | 303-841-6269 | Incontext | US Sage | 417-331-7433 | Mainlan Network |
| Reference Software | 801-225-4444 | Grammatik | ValuStor | 408-945-8376 | Floptical, Tape Backup |
| RelayNet National | 301-229-5623 | Relaynet Mail System | Velocity | 708-991-0597 | Software |
| Remote Control Int | 619-431-4030 | Telemagic | Ven Tel | 408-922-0988 | Modems |
| Revelation Technologies | 206-641-8110 | Advanced Revelation | Ventura Software | 619-673-7691 | Ventura Publisher |
| Rix Softworks | 714-476-0728 | Paint Software | Vermont Microsystems | 802-655-7461 | Hires Video Boards |
| Rybs Electronics | 303-443-7437 | Memory Manager | Video Seven | 510-656-0503 | Video Cards |
| Saber Software | 214-361-1883 | Saber Network Menu | Viewsonic | 909-468-1241 | Monitors |
| STB Systems | 214-437-9615 | Video Cards | Virex | 919-419-1602 | Virus Detection |
| Storage Dimensions | 408-944-1221 | Storage Devices | Virgin Software | 714-833-3305 | Entertainment Software |
| Streamline Design | 905-793-1411 | SDP, Visualink, Clickcomm | Virtual Technologies | 210-787-8974 | Virtual Bbs & Utilities |
| Summit Memory Systems | 408-439-6774 | Tape Backups | Visual Business Systems | 404-953-1613 | Video |
| Sunrise Software | 404-256-9525 | Sunrise Door Software | Volkswriter | 408-648-3015 | Volkwriter Software |
| Sunriver | 512-835-8082 | Unix Systems | Vortex Systems | 412-322-3216 | Retrochron Backup |
| Supernac Software | 408-541-6190 | Spectrum Board, Monitors | Wacom | 415-960-0236 | Graphic Tablets |
| Supra Corp | 503-967-2444 | Modems | Walker, Richer, & Quinn | 206-324-2357 | TCP/IP Software |
| Sydex | 503-683-1385 | Shez | Walt Disney Software | 818-567-4027 | Childrens Software |
| SyDOS | 407-994-4367 | Optical Media Products | Wangtek | 800-344-4463 | Tape Drives |
| Symantec | 503-484-6669 | Norton, pcanywhere | Wantree Development | 913-441-0595 | Remoteaccess BBS |
| Synopsys | 408-970-3719 | S3 VGA & Other VGA Cards | Weitek | 408-522-7517 | Math Coproc |
| Sysgen | 408-946-5032 | Drive Controllers | Western Digital | 714-753-1068 | Controllers, Hard Drive |
| Systems Compatibility | 312-670-4239 | Software Bridge, Toolkit | White Water Systems | 708-328-9442 | Zortech, Actor |
| Syquest | 510-656-0473 | Removable Mass Storage | Whole Counsel Ministries | 804-590-1659 | Bible Doors, Network Listing |
| Swan Technologies | 814-237-6145 | Swan Computers | Willow Peripherals | 718-993-2066 | Laptop TV, Publisher, VGA TV |
| T A G BBS | 313-582-6671 | Tag Bbs Software | Word Perfect Corp | 801-225-4444 | Wordperfect, Drawperft |
| Tallgrass Technologies | 913-492-8757 | Controller, Filesecure | Wordtech | 415-254-1141 | Dbxl, Quicksilver |
| TEAMate | 213-318-5302 | Teamate Unix BBS | WorldWide Video | 201-491-5147 | Video Hardware |
| Technology Concepts | 503-691-5199 | Fax Line Manager | Wyse | 408-922-4400 | Terminals, Computers |
| Tecmar | 800-344-4463 | Tape Backups | Xircom | 818-878-7618 | Network Adapters |
| Tektronix | 408-685-4504 | Printers, Plotter Products | Xyquest | 508-667-5669 | Correct Grammer |
| Telebit | 408-745-3861 | Modems | Zenith Data Systems | 708-808-4942 | Computer Systems |
| Telix Support | 919-481-9399 | Telix Comm Software | Zenographics | 714-851-3860 | Pixie, Super Queue |
| Template Garden Software | 212-627-5089 | The Documentor | Zoneware | 414-461-9702 | Bbs Door Software |
| Texas Instruments | 512-250-6112 | Printers, CPUs | Zoom Telephonics | 617-423-3733 | Modems |

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Operating System:

Special Access Requirements:

mail to

Sysop Members, EFF, 1001 G Street, NW, Suite 950 East, Washington, DC 20001

LAND-O-NANDO

by Brian Gallagher

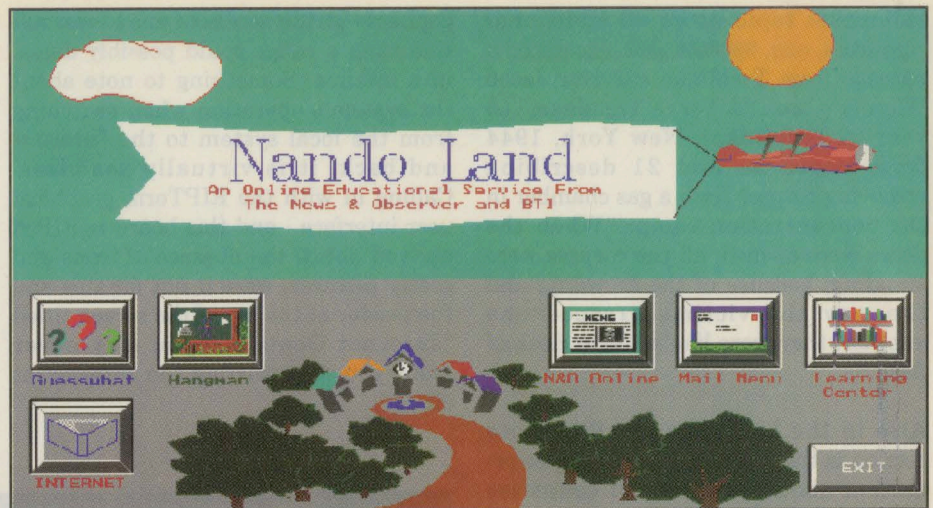
More modems, more lines, more callers - a situation every sysop loves to have. Dave Livingston knows the story well as his board, NandoO.net, (919)829-3560, associated with the local newspaper, "The News & Observer," of Raleigh, North Carolina has gone through a phenomenal growth spurt from five lines on February 14, 1993 when the system first opened, to 105 lines today - and you can still get a busy signal.

The project began with two major goals: one, to provide Internet access to the community; two, to distribute the newspaper online. For Livingston himself, the goals reached somewhat further. He wanted to make the board more attractive than the printed version of the newspaper and more entertaining than television. His theme is, "content is king."

The board, running Galacticomm's Major BBS software, has had a direct Internet connection, via the newspaper, from the day it opened - telnet: camelot.nando.net. And The News & Observer's interest and bankrolling of the project doesn't hurt one bit. A family owned publication, the current executive editor Frank Daniels III interest in the online world has been a major factor in building the board to its current status.

Daniels, is one of the first editors in the nation to list his e-mail address in the masthead of the publication and all of the writers and columnists' e-mail addresses are listed as well. In fact, while vacationing in Wyoming, Daniels, who carries a laptop with him and has his own forum on the BBS, responded to a subscribers e-mail via his editorial department the next day - a fine example of telecommuting at its best.

As newspapers are traditionally and necessarily community oriented, so is the board. Subscribers, \$20 per month for full, unlimited access, will receive five different user IDs per household and free subscriptions are offered to children during non-peak (7:00 am to 4:30 pm) hours with many finding the Internet and online libraries a great help when working on school projects. The children's area, titled "NandOland"

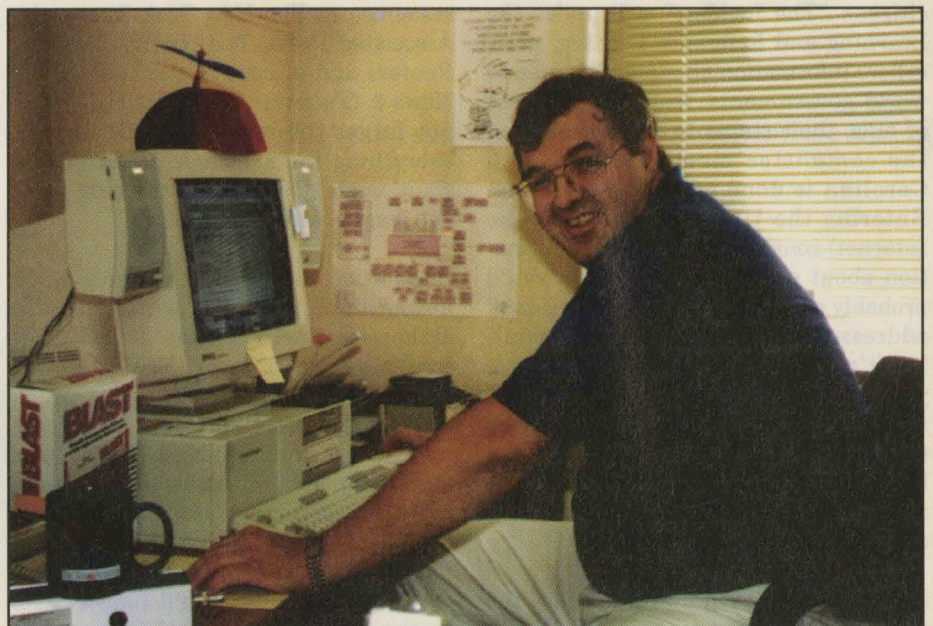


NandOland-Free Children's area on well-connected BBS

offers a wide array of networking and resource options including Internet gophers and K-12 Net with the noted exclusion of most games. Since the board is used in the local school system for research, Livingston didn't want students playing when they should be studying.

The disabled are also given free subscriptions to the system with no limitations whatsoever. One of their favorite areas are the project Gutenberg books found under the "Learning and Reference" icon from the top menu. Livingston has received many accolades from the disabled community saying he has "changed their lives" through the board, as now, those who have only a

head-stick for motion, can turn the pages of a book without any assistance. Entering the learning and reference area, Ripped to look like a mini library, callers are greeted by a menu with a slew of options. Under the fiction area are titles such as: War of the Worlds, A Christmas Carol, Prisoner of Zenda, The Scarlet Letter and Tom Sawyer Abroad among others, which can be readily pored through, in addition there is a separate area for the works of Edgar Allen Poe. If this isn't enough, the "Bookshelf," "Internet Reference Shelf" and the catalog for the Wade county Libraries are also accessible. Clicking the bookshelf icon gateways callers to a gopher site with 223 different topics. These topics, in turn have more listings under them. The



Dave Livingston of NandoO.net hard at work

Holocaust topic listed 43 additional resources, one, [treblinka.gas2](#), excerpted a passage from Treblinka survivor Jacob Wiernik's book "A Yor in Treblinke," (A year in Treblinka), New York, 1944 from pages 20 and 21 describing removing corpses from a gas chamber in the concentration camp: "When the doors were opened, all the corpses were standing; because of the crowding and the way the victims grasped one another, they were like a single clock of flesh."

Also in the Learning and Reference section is the World Atlas offering information about hundreds of countries across the globe, The World History Calendar, a resource akin to what many newspapers use to list interesting historical tidbits that happened on a particular date, (i.e. on December 7, besides the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, it is Independence day for the Ivory Coast and Panama, Delaware Day in Delaware, the day residents of Fiji celebrate the prophet Mohammed's birthday, and the birthday of Harry Chapin, born in New York City, 1942). Under American History, important documents pertaining to this country's past including the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Mayflower Compact, the Gettysburg Address, Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream," speech from the 1963 march on Washington, and the Emancipation Proclamation among many others are found.

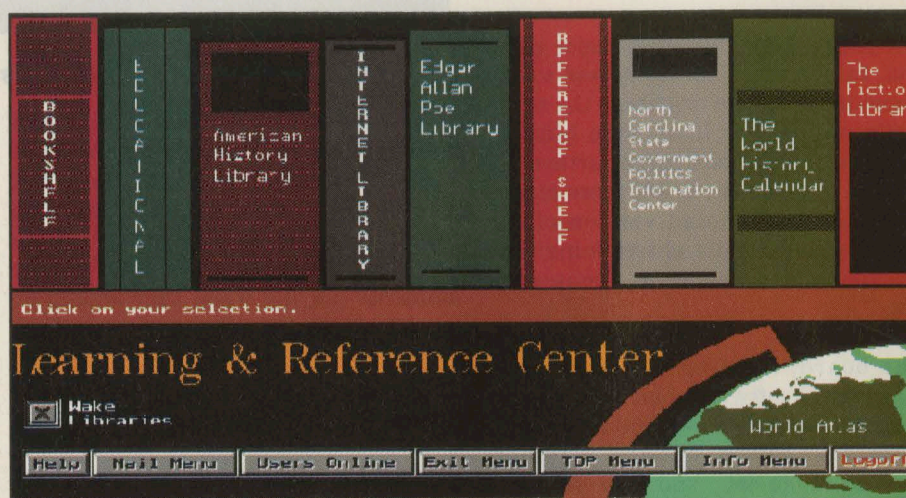
A valuable resource to all concerned citizens "The Insider," still under the Learning and Reference heading, gives callers information on state, federal and world governments. Browsing the text of bills, their status in committees and the committee members for North Carolina is done quickly and easily. Entering the U.S. area here (via the Internet) connects you to more information about our government than you'd probably care to know, (including e-mail addresses of congressional members), but it's there and even offers to connect you to FedWorld, via the Internet - [fedworld.gov](#), (the BBS number is (703)321-8020, the mammoth BBS run by the Commerce Department with yet another 130 government boards reachable through that system.

For those with a more worldly view, the system will gateway to NATO, The World Bank, or the United Nation's

gophers - giving access to more information than a caller could possibly digest in a lifetime. Something to note about the system's operation when switching from the local system to the Internet and back, it is virtually seamless. Calling in with the RIPTerm graphical user interface - and this board is Ripped up, you notice the absence of icons and pretty pictures, were it not for this and the header at the top of the screen titled "Internet Gopher" - you may never know you were surfing the Internet at all.

time? All yours, for the low, low price of just \$24,000.

There are, of course, the more traditional BBS attractions here as well. The file library consist of 70,000 files, much of it ASP approved shareware, as well as files on topics ranging from the Grateful Dead, Star Trek and Sports, to the Internet, Netware and stuff for teachers and writers too. There are 14 games on the system including Trade-wars, Mutants, Welderlands, and Hangman, as well as a chat area with a constant 15 nightly devotees.



Nando.net's Impressive Learning and Reference Center

The "Nando News Overnight" option, offers a daily encapsulation of events compiled by night editor for the News and Observer, Joe Sterling ([sterling@nando.net](#)), from such respected resources as The New York Times, the Associated Press, The NEWS Network, Reuters and of course, the staff of the News & Observer. For sports buffs, let's not forget the sports area filled with everything the armchair athlete could want, currently boasting the only baseball league available - fantasy.

In addition to the approximately 2,500 newsgroups, (none of which are the alt.hamster.ducttape variety), and 1,000 hypertext pages of WWW stuff, Nando.net also offers the largest online classified advertising section in the south culled from the News & Observer newspaper. I didn't bother counting the numerous listings or areas that scrolled across my screen, but if you're looking for a house, a car, a job, a thingamajig, or whatchamacallit, you'll find it here. In the market for a 1967 Cessna 172 airplane with only 1500 hours of flight

Livingston, a retired Master Sergeant for the Air Force has been working in telecommunications for as long as he can remember and thinks of his job as Chief Engineer for Nando.net, as getting paid for his hobby. He is in the process of installing a FidoNet link, and a Planet Connect Satellite feed, more fuel for minds that want to know. With these additions and what is already on the system, if as Livingston says, "content is king," someone should give this man a crown. And kudos to Daniels, for being an executive editor with an ear and a wallet geared towards the electronic community, and the seven other staff at the paper who make this system smooth as silk.

The News & Observer's Nando.net, Dave Livingston Chief Engineer; (919)829-3560 BBS; telnet: [camelot.nando.net](#); (919)829-4836 voice; (919) 836-2814 fax; 127 West Hargett Street, Suite 200, Raleigh, N.C. 27601.

ELBOW LAKE - A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

by Brian Gallagher

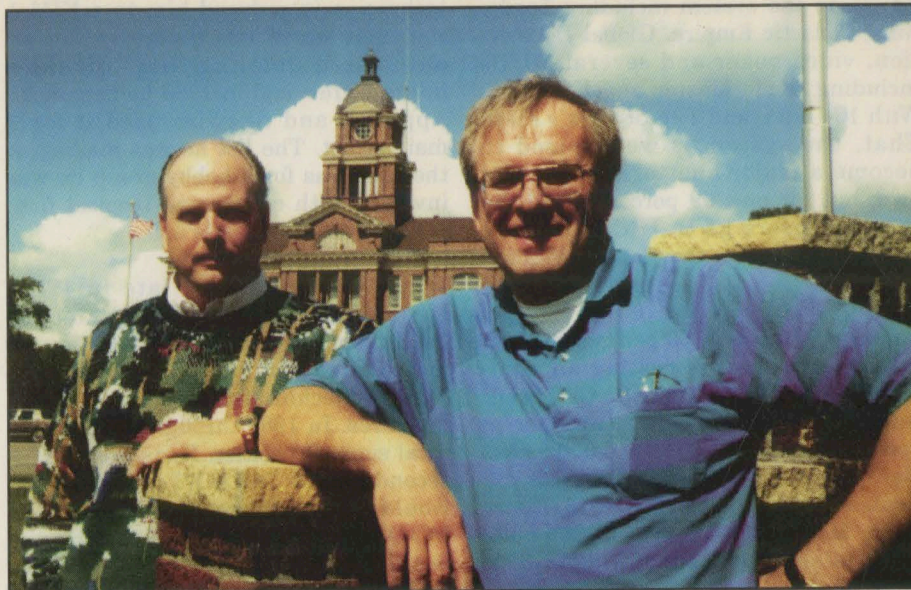
In the agricultural community of Elbow Lake Minnesota, population 1,200 give or take a few, time passes as slowly as corn growing in the fields and wide open spaces and fresh air are an abundant commodity. Catching crappies or sunfish - both pan fish, walleye or northern pike - up to 10 pounds, is a pastime many enjoy as everyone knows Elbow Lake has some of the best fishing in the state.

There isn't a single traffic light in the whole of Grant County, of which Elbow Lake is a part, and it seems that most vehicles either have a truck bed behind the steering wheel or a plow. Underneath this pleasant, peaceful exterior are the rumblings of a city and community on the move. About 10 years ago an effort began to attract business to Elbow Lake because it was well known among residents that once a child graduated school they moved on to one of the cities to find employment because there simply wasn't any work back home.

Well, business came to Elbow Lake, and that's good, but it is mostly along the industrial/manufacturing line, and what the city is really looking for is technology. The idea of telecommuting, something the Minnesota Department of Transportation has been pushing for over the last year to relieve the crowded rush hour highways and byways of Minneapolis St. Paul, seemed to hold a glimmer of hope for expansion minded Elbow Lake residents, just two hours and a half hours north west of the metropolis. Thanks to the help from a California refugee, their high tech dreams may be coming true.

With the fires from the Los Angeles Rodney King riots still burning brightly in his rear view mirror, Rick Wooton, a displaced aerospace engineer finally had enough of earthquakes, unemployment and life in California in general. He made his way across the country and arrived in Minnesota with fresh air in his lungs, \$15 in his pocket, and an idea in his head.

A sysop or co-sysop of numerous California boards in the late '80s and early '90s including the Fireside Lounge in Los Angeles, the Feminine Connection also in Los Angeles, and the 16 line Surfside in Ventura County - Wooton



Jeff Holsen, City Clerk (left), and Gene Wenstrom, Economic Development Director for Elbow Lake, MN

knew his way around the BBS world pretty well when he arrived in Minnesota and naturally wanted to set one up in his new home - which he did. The system opened in July of 1993 with two lines, and got a lot of attention when a story about Wooton, his wife Kathy and their BBS was published in a local paper.

The interest piqued by the story soon had Wooton and the city of Elbow Lake looking towards a grander scale of things. Jeff Holsen, the City Clerk, called it a "combination effort." The Economic Development Authority for the city found its way to lend \$50,000 to the system to get the board up and running. Gene Wenstrom, Director of the Development Authority, said it was felt among the four city council members and the mayor that they didn't want to be by-passed by the information flow and they didn't want their children to be left out either. "(Now) our kids will be as well trained to navigate the Internet as anybody's," Wenstrom said. When the vote came up concerning the loan in the city council meeting, the result was a unanimous "yes."

Further helping the cause, the local school agreed to purchase an Internet leased line from Wooton's new company, 10,000 Lakes Connection, with a 15 year contract paid up front. In addition, the Runestone Telephone Association, a cooperative telephone company did its part by giving Wooton free installation for 50 telephone lines, as well as not charging for the first four

months of service. Lee Meyers, the general manager for Runestone Telephone, said, the deal with 10,000 lakes would not only benefit the children of the community and the BBS, but their business as well.

After closing the deal with the city on May 11, 10,000 Lakes Connection opened in mid-July with a healthy 164 lines - 50 via 14.4 Supra modems, 82 via an ADP Autonet X-25 packet network giving the system local calling numbers in over 1,100 cities nationwide, and 32 telnet lines, bbs.tlcbbs.com.

The system itself is set up on Galacti-comm's Major BBS running Durand Communications DCNet photographic database software. With all of the work that Wooton has spent securing funding and promoting the project he has had little time to fine tune the intricacies of the system itself. There are, however, 17,000 files on the system, with the 1,300 or so in the IBM area being the most popular, and they are currently installing 12 to 15 newsgroups.

The system has 391 forums of its own, ranging from Science and Medicine, Aviation and Air Craft to Jokes, Homebrewing and Marriage. Although the system's integrated RIP graphics operate smoothly and easily through the message base, the sparse traffic reminds one of those back country roads traveled by a very few who know where to go for the best hunting.

A big strength of the system is in the area of chat and games. There are 35

games on the system including Trade-wars, Galactic Empire, Global Destruction, video poker and several MUDs including Blade Master and Kyrandia. With 164 lines, and Tim Stryker's Flash Chat, the system is well poised to become a major chatterhouse on its own, but for now 99 percent of all the Internet users go to IRC, (Internet Relay Chat), when they log on, Wooton said.

Subscriptions are **\$6.50** per month, with full Internet access costing an additional **\$12.00** per month. Call ADP Autonet for a local calling number in your area **(800)521-2733**. 10,000 Lakes Connection, attn: Rick Wooton, 32 Central Avenue South, Box 1016, Elbow Lake, MN 56531-1016; **(218)685-6622** BBS; telnet: **bbs.tlcbbs.com**; **(218)685-6852** voice.

PCs IN OHIO

by Brian Gallagher

Norm Henke, sysop of PC-OHIO **(216)381-3320**, in Cleveland Ohio, didn't learn computers in a classroom but, he did learn chemistry and it was the linking together of molecules that led him to ultimately link 50 486/33s together which are the bulwark of this 50 line PCBoard system.

In 1977 Henke started working for Cleveland Crystals, growing optical laser crystals (cadmium sulfide crystals) in a laboratory. Here, an electronics

technician introduced him to a KIM 1 computer which was being used for an automated mailing list. Henke's interest grew and in 1980 he bought an Apple II, and likewise used it for a mailing list. The list he was mailing at the time was for a hobby group he was involved with concerning tropical fish; his favorite being angle fish.

When PCs rolled out late in 1981, Henke followed suit a year later. In 1983 he changed careers to computers and started doing private consulting, sales and technical support in the Cleveland area. In 1985 through a sales/technical support position Henke received a second PC, (a TAVA XT clone), which would eventually be the first node of PC-OHIO. On September 1, 1985 the board opened running RBBS, switching to PCBoard version 7.0 two months later as it was faster and supported a network.

Today callers have access to nine gigabytes of files on hard drives, 12 CD ROMs, all of the information available from a Planet Connect satellite feed, (including 20 networks), e-mail and 2,500 newsgroups via 30 U.S.Robotics dual standard, and 20 Hayes V.FC 28.8 Kbps modems. Henke planned to install a T-1 Internet connection when he moved to a new facility last fall but, with only one provider in the Cleveland area wanting **\$10,000** to run the line, and another **\$10,000** for a year's service, "the up-front costs were just too darned high," he said.

He is working on getting an ISDN connection which is supposed to be available in his area, only the people who should know where to find it - can't. The BBS is housed in what used to be a mammoth, 50' x 70' carriage house, of which about half is now filled with the hardware for the BBS. In January of this year, Ohio experienced the coldest winter ever, with the mercury dipping to a Cray-like atmosphere of 27 degrees below zero. During this cold snap, with no external heat provided to the carriage area, the space, none-the-less, remained a steady 60 degrees just from the heat of so many machines.

PC-Ohio has **5,000** subscribers and **8,000** users in its database and takes **2,600** calls daily. Last year, after attending the ONE BBSCON show in Colorado Springs, Henke decided there was too much liability involved in keeping adult files on his system and removed them shortly thereafter. He estimates he lost 50 subscribers by removing the files but, he added, has a lot more religious and law enforcement subscribers now.

The most popular area on his board is pretty much a tie between messages and files, and the board has three mail doors to assist callers including, CAM Mail, Q-Mail and Silver Express. For Henke who long ago abandoned tropical fish as a hobby, and can't seem to find the time to devote to his other major interest - science fiction with Star Trek and Doctor Who leading the way, computers reign complete. "Computers are my hobby, my pastime, my avocation...my everything," he said. Most of his time is spent reading the 20 to 30 messages directed to him personally and reading approximately 400 to 500 other messages everyday.

By the new year, Henke hopes to have all of his modems upgraded to the V.34 protocol and he is looking for some upgrades from PCBoard as well, specifically support for FidoNet and Internet. Something else he wants but isn't sure he'll get, is support for auto-generated RIP graphics.

Subscriptions are **\$52** per year for 1 hour per day, or **\$78** per year for two hours per day. Norm Henke, PC-OHIO, 23749 Cedar Road, Cleveland, OH 44122; **(216)291-3307** voice; **(216)381-3320** BBS.



Norm and Joyce Henke with son Ian and the PC Ohio BBS

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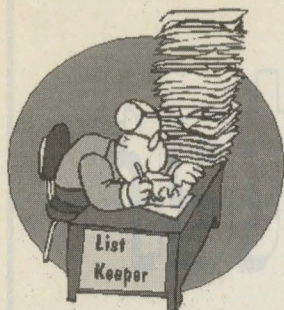
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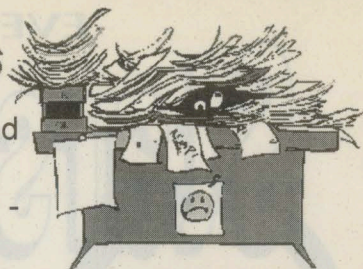
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BOARDWATCH

List of BBS List Keepers


This listing comprises a list of those who compile and maintain lists of bulletin boards, either by topical category, or by some geographic area or definition - often by area code. The primary bulletin board system where the list can be downloaded electronically is also included.



| BBSLIST TOPIC | AUTHOR/EDITOR | CONTACT BBS | TELEPHONE |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| New Jersey BBS's | Scott Drake | T.E.R.N. BBS | (201)399-4772 |
| Connecticut AC 203 | Kevin Brook | Creative Edge BBS | (203)743-4044 |
| BBS With Handicapped Focus | Bill McGarry | Handicap News BBS | (203)926-6168 |
| Known Networks | Victor Laking | eneric BBS | (204)475-5199 |
| Manitoba, Canada List AC 204 | Victor Laking | Generic BBS | (204)475-5199 |
| Seattle AC 206/West Washington | Bob Dinse/Nanook | Eskimo North | (206)367-3837 |
| Tacoma Washington AC 206 | Richard Langsford | AmoCat BBS | (206)566-1155 |
| Puget Sound Area | Art Tomlin | Orion Station | (206)675-0565 |
| Kitsap County Washington | Michael Schuyler | Quicksilver BBS | (206)780-2011 |
| Maine 207 | Scott R. Bodeen | Street Corner BBS | (207)442-0997 |
| Modesto, CA BBS List | Chris Mitchell, "Gomba" | Anything Goes | (209)491-0782 |
| Central California AC 209 | Jack Porter/Madera UG | Zen Den Systems | (209)675-8436 |
| Graphical User Interface BBS | David Shapiro | The Gooney (GUI) BBS | (212)876-5885 |
| 96 List - 9600+bps BBS | Ken Sukimoto | Downtown BBS | (213)484-0260 |
| Dallas/Ft. Worth BBS List | Mark Elson/Mike Shockley | Blues Cafe | (214)638-1181 |
| Open Access UNIX Site List | Phil Eschallier | LGNP1 (login:BBS) | (215)348-9727 |
| Cleveland Area 216 | Jim Barry | Flip Flop | (216)951-9134 |
| Educational BBSs | Joe McIntosh | KSI Public BBS | (219)626-2150 |
| Educational and Indiana BBS | Joe McIntosh | KSI Public BBS | (219)626-2150 |
| Conservation/Nature BBS List | D.Wendling/JS Christianso | Coin of the Realm | (301)585-6697 |
| Ham/Amateur Radio BBS | Stan Staten | 3WINKs BBS | (301)590-9629 |
| Handicapped Issues BBS | Richard Barth | HEX BBS | (301)593-7357 |
| Desktop Publishing BBS | Frank Atlee | Infinite Perspective | (301)924-0398 |
| Delaware AC 302 | Vince Boehm/Dave Osburn | Talk Radio BBS | (302)429-7667 |
| Colorado AC 303/719 | Willis Morrow | Big Boy's BBS | (303)458-3832 |
| Cave Exploration BBSs | Douglas L. Moore II | The CatEye BBS | (304)592-3390 |
| South Florida Area 305/407 | Eric Thav | Silicon Beach BBS | (305)474-6512 |
| Southern California | Mike Hefferman | SOCAL Corner | (310)422-7942 |
| California AC 310 | Jim Walton | Illusions BBS | (310)804-3324 |
| Detroit Area 313 | Horst Mann | Tony's Corner | (313)754-1131 |
| St. Louis AC 314 | Beth Brooks | Fire Escape's Dir | (314)741-9505 |
| ASP BBS Member List | Richard Holler | The RoadHouse BBS | (317)784-2147 |
| Engineering Related BBS | Arthur Petrzalka | Computer Plumber | (319)337-6723 |
| Rhode Island Area 401 | Mike Labbe | Eagle's Nest | (401)732-5292 |
| Alberta AC 403 | Stephen Decarie | T-8000 | (403)246-4487 |
| Calgary Alberta AC 403 | Jeremy Birkett | The Quantum BBS | (403)252-5119 |
| Atlanta Area 404 | Online Atlanta Society | OASIS | (404)627-2662 |
| Atlanta Area 404 | Rodney Aloia | The INDEX System | (404)924-8472 |
| Montana Area | Jay Michalik | Valley Light BBS | (406)273-6399 |
| Searchlight BBS Systems | Chad Payne | Montana MediaNet | (406)549-6325 |
| Orlando BBS List AC 407 | Lenny Lacuy | Infinite Space Onlin | (407)856-0021 |
| San Francisco Bay Area | Mark Shapiro | BABBA BBS | (408)946-8592 |
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| Louisville KY and South IN | Tim Arnold | Dance of Shiva BBS | (502)893-6360 |

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| New Orleans AC 504 | Darin Celino | Southern Belle BBS | (504)455-9488 |
| New Mexico Area Code (505) | Dan Kiehl | MDC Computers BBS | (505)434-0258 |
| Apogee/ID/Software Crtns List | Dan Linton | Software Creations | (508)368-7139 |
| PCBoards on Internet | Ruben Melo | ponyXpress BBS | (508)587-7669 |
| Worcester MA AC (508) | Jim Metzler | Miwok Village BBS | (508)754-6512 |
| Corpus Christi | James Cordani | Treasure Island | (512)241-8358 |
| Austin Area BBS List AC 512 | John Foster | Camel's Back BBS | (512)243-0077 |
| Selected BBS | Joseph Caplinger & Son | J&J's BBS | (513)236-1229 |
| AC 516 Free Shareware BBS | Harold Stein | Long Island Exchange | (516)271-5303 |
| Area Code 517 - Mid-Michigan | Rick Rosinski/SAMM | Wolverine BBS | (517)695-9952 |
| Business/Professional BBS | Dennis Hauser | Delight The Customer | (517)797-3740 |
| Phoenix AC (602) | John Mendivil | Majestic Royalty BBS | (602)278-1651 |
| Phoenix AC (602) | Sue Widemark | Cheese Whiz BBS | (602)279-0793 |
| Cochise County Arizona | Kevin McCrory | The Commo Shack BBS | (602)452-0587 |
| New Hampshire BBS's | Mike Maggi | Marios Birdhouse | (603)226-0467 |
| Victoria/Vancouver AC 604 | Mark Morley | Island Net | (604)477-5163 |
| Kentucky AC (606) | Jon Hagee | Kentucky Explorer | (606)271-1451 |
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| New Jersey AC 609 | Dave Schubert | The Casino BBS | (609)485-2380 |
| New Jersey Area 201/609/908 | Wayne R. Morton | Praedo BBS | (609)953-0769 |
| Medical Issues BBS | Edward Del Grosso | Black Bag | (610)454-7396 |
| Minnesota Twin Cities AC 612 | Barry Watson | Abiogenetic BBS | (612)774-8454 |
| Apple II BBS | Mike Shecket | Way Out | (614)436-4846 |
| Tennessee AC 615/901 | unknown | SPDA Info Service | (615)952-5638 |
| Female Sysops | Brenda Donovan | The Pacific Rim | (619)278-7361 |
| San Diego, CA AC 619 | Tom Grigg | ComputerEdge | (619)573-1675 |
| San Diego AC 619 | Joe Nicholson | General Alarm | (619)669-0385 |
| Apple II BBS with Internet con | Morgan Davis | pro-sol | (619)670-5379 |
| Virginia AC 703/804 | Eddie Gebhard | PC Power House | (703)348-1423 |
| OS/2 BBS Systems | Pete Norloff | OS2/Shareware BBS | (703)385-4325 |
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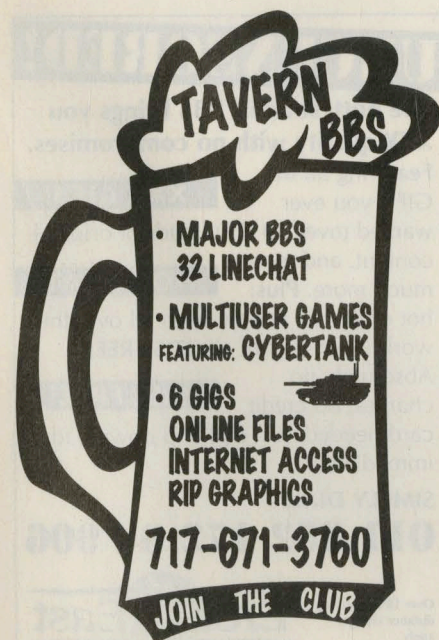
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The Emporium BBS! (817)543-4250 Arlington, Texas since 10/88. Sysop: Henry Buchanan. Using Remote Access 2 with 20 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 6000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$75 Annual fee. One of the largest collections of adult files! Over 17,000 adult files online. Adult games online, with online chat and messages! ADULTS only! Must be 21 years of age or older! Immediate adult access w/valid credit card - VISA, Mastercard, Discover, AMEX

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The Gay Blade (905)882-4800 Toronto, Ontario since 01/90. Sysop: Richard Kamus. Using TBBS 2.2 with 20 lines on MS-DOS with 5000 MB storage. ZyXel at 19200 bps. \$20 Hourly fee. The Gay Blade provides online chatting, online games, and message bases of interest to those living an alternate lifestyle. Networks include GayCom, La'Net, Studsnet and Internet. A wide variety of membership alternatives are available.

Alaska Virtual Online (907)522-1347 Anchorage Alaska since 01/94. Sysop: Viper. Using MajorBBS 6.21d with 16 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2140 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. We offer 6 CD's, online shopping, games, Internet newsgroups and email, online graphics thru DC-Net and RIP. Ww are Alaska's biggest BBS.

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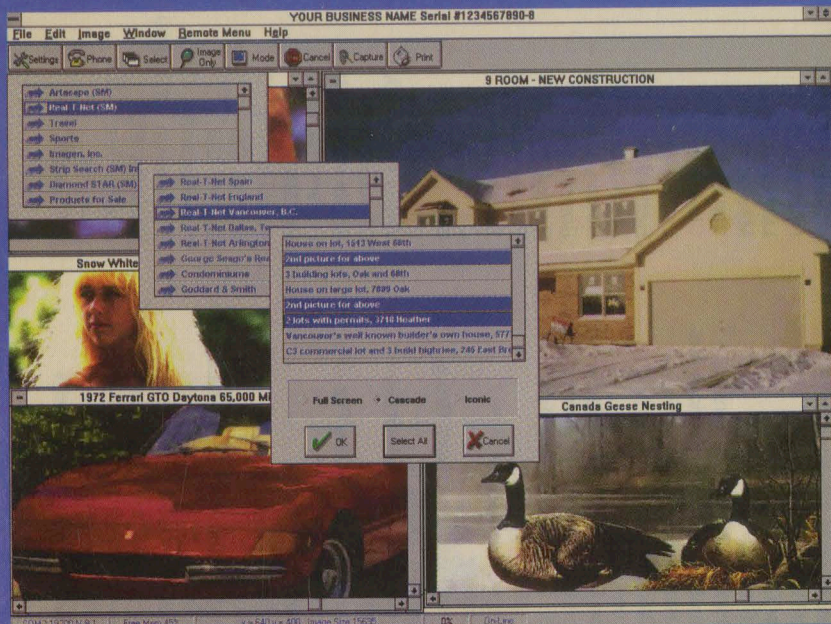
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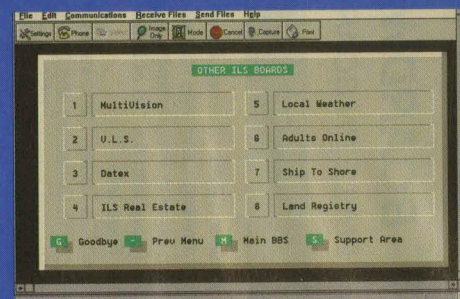
THE PREZ SEZ... ANY MAJOR DUDE will tell you that big things are afoot on the Internet with Galacticcomm's new **ICO** (Internet Connectivity Option). Like **Interchange/ IPAD** from eSoft, **ICO** allows your callers to reduce the Internet to a transparent medium **free from Unix**

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TECHNOLOGY FOR THE FUTURE:

Down in the Big Queasy

The treasury is strapped, business is stalled, crime is up. New Orleans' boom times have rolled away.

By RICHARD WOODBURY
NEW ORLEANS

EVEN BY NEW ORLEANS' lush standards for revelry, last week's hoedown was an epic blizzard. There were no less than 100,000 revelers in the French Quarter, a 10-hour parade was viewed by 1 million revelers who swallowed booze and

French Quarter revelers. As guests' merriment topped up the \$10 million infusion, revelers for the first time by a medieval, carnivorous, commission-spoken-in-Beverly Hills pronounced it "a grand and glorious party."

But beyond each other of the festivities were the sounds of a city falling apart. In the French Quarter, a 10-story, black-marble mansion of ramshackle cottages and abandoned apartments, cracks and shattered windows, and a few people were seen in the streets. The 10-hour parade was viewed by 1 million revelers who swallowed booze and

serious crime is climbing alarm as it becomes more brazen and frequent. Residents of the nearby Garden District along its Charles Avenue sometimes pack pistols when they visit neighbors. Homes for parties. Others act as sentries, carrying cellular phones when they visit their dogs. Father time allow their children to play in gardens, neighbors in one 10-story and bonded together to build a walled compound. Maybe it's the end of the world, but someone's got to be ready. I got from my alarm-bell home to my alarm-bell car to my alarm-bell office. Says Bob Fitzpatrick, who runs an import store.

NEXT PAGE

PUBLICATION MODE

Imagen's forthcoming **.RTC technology** compresses highly formatted pages with **multiple columns and images**, to as little as 12K, allows downloads in seconds. Mouse driven menus are no longer the issue, now it's **hypertext with HTML+ WWW** capability, and true 'zine interface for a world audience! Developer inquires invited.

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| Denver Exchange, The 104/909 | (303)458-1227 | 28 Lines Adult BBS/Internet/Files/Chat/Games/Publications - | James Craig | Denver, CO |
| Denver Free-Net | (303)270-4865 | Free Community Online Service - Health Info | University of Colorado Health Science | Denver, CO |
| Digicom | (812)479-1310 | Home of Tech Support BBS List, Online Magazines, 1.7 Gigs | | Evansville, IN |
| Distant Mirror BBS | (615)648-1782 | Free Access BBS | Steve Perlo | Clarksville, TN |
| DNIS | (619)864-1468 | Outstanding BBS Gateway to multiple information services | Mike Simmons | Palm Springs, CA |
| Duke Graphics of San Diego | (619)793-8360 | 7 CD Roms Online, 4 gigs 50,000 files | Chris Duke | San Diego, CA |
| EarthArt BBS | (803)552-4389 | Wildlife/Conservation Art Gallery GIF Images | Ambassador Wildlife Gallery/Bob Chapman | North Charleston, SC |
| Ed-Net | (604)732-8877 | Vancouver School Board Multi-Line Educational Network | Barry Macdonald/Vancouver Board of Ed | Vancouver, BC |
| Electric Ideas Clearinghouse | (206)586-6854 | Energy Efficiency Efforts In Pacific Northwest-HydroElec | Bonneville Power Administration WSE | Olympia, WA |
| Electronic Publishers BBS | (503)624-4966 | News-Finance-Sports-Games-2GB File Library | Brian Cash | Portland, OR |
| Electronic Zone, The | (412)349-3504 | Specializing in Hypertext | William R. Forbes | Indiana, PA |
| Energy Info Admin E-Publications | (202)586-8658 | Variety of Petroleum/Coal/Electricity Energy Statistics | US Department of Energy | Washington, D.C. |
| Entertainment & Graphics | (503)697-5100 | Entertainment & Graphics | Jim Maxey | Lake Oswego, OR |
| eSoft Product Support BBS | (303)699-8222 | Home of The Bread Board System (TBBS) BBS Software | Phil Becker/eSoft Inc. | Aurora, CO |
| Event Horizons | (503)697-5100 | 64 Line Digitized Graphics Image Library - Adult .GIF files | Jim Maxey | Lake Oswego, OR |
| Everton's On-Line Search | (801)752-6095 | Searchable genealogy databases with 3,000,000 ancestor names | Ron Olsen, Travis Hayes | Logan, UT |
| EXEC-PC | (414)789-4210 | Largest BBS in US - 280 Lines -650,000 files - 35 Gigabytes | Bob and Tracey Mahoney | Elm Grove, WI |
| Executive Network | (914)667-4567 | Interlink Netmail National Host - Multiline PCBoard System | Andy Keeves | Mt. Vernon, NY |
| Eye Contact BBS | (415)255-5972 | 22 line Oracomm - Gay Issues - Popular Chat System | Bill Montgomery | Mill Valley, CA |
| FAA Flight Standards ASO-FSDO-15 | (800)645-3736 | FAA Flight Standards Publication & Info for the Aviation Com | FAA/Bill Hoenstine | Orlando, FL |
| Falken Support BBS | (703)803-8000 | Support for FALKEN software - 16 lines - doors - chat | Herb Rose | Woodbridge, VA |
| Farwest BBS | (604)381-3934 | Large Western Canada Galacticom Info System | Ren L'Ecuyer | Victoria, BC |
| FAX/Satellite Services BBS | (619)224-3853 | NOAA Weather Satellite Images - Russian/Japanese Sat Pics | Scotty Olson | San Diego, CA |
| FCC Public Access Link | (301)725-1072 | Equipment Authorization Status Advisory Service | Federal Communications Commission | Columbia, MD |
| FCC WORLD | (202)887-5718 | FCC Documents, Forums | Smithwick & Belendiuk, P.C. | Washington, DC |
| FEDLINK ALIX II | (202)707-4888 | Info on Federal Libraries -Excerpts Library of Congress News | Federal Library Information Network | Washington, D.C. |
| Fido Tech Stand | 31-30-735900 | Fidonet Technical Information for Holland | J.J. van der Maas | Utrecht, HOLLAND |

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES - October 1994

| SERVICE | PHONE | DESCRIPTION | SPONSOR/SYSOP | LOCATION |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Fire & Ice | (313)373-8608 | A Family BBS With Christians Discussions | William Sims | Drayton Plains, MI |
| Fisherman's Net | (614)837-0400 | Dedicated to Fisherman | Lloyd Davidson | Carroll, OH |
| FOG City BBS 125/10 | (415)863-9697 | Gay Community BBS - AIDS Info - Desktop Publishing - MACs | Bill Essex | San Francisco, CA |
| Foundation Online Service | (203)968-8752 | 15+ Gigs 8 Lines Internet | David Deutsch | Stanford, CT |
| Fred the Computer | (508)872-8461 | Newspaper BBS. Wierdnet Newswire. List of MA Libraries | Middlesex News-Adam Gaffin | Framingham, MA |
| FreeBoard BBS, The | (804)744-0797 | Desktop Publishing File Distribution Network 1:264/212 | Bill Hunter | Midlothian, VA |
| Fun Connection | (503)753-8431 | Multiline Entertainment - 8 Lines Games/Chat/News | Vincent Reece | Corvallis, OR |
| Galacticomm Demo System | (305)583-7808 | Customer support for Major BBS | Galacticomm | Fort Lauderdale, FL |
| Garbage Dump | (505)294-5675 | Hottest Chat in America - National Access \$1.75 per Hour | Dean Kerl & Simon Clement | Albuquerque, NM |
| Gateway Communications BBS | (714)863-7097 | Novell Netware/TCP-IP Shareware Utilities | Carol De Jesus | Irvine, CA |
| Gateway On-Line | (313)291-5571 | Interactive Chat, Multiplayer Games, Usenet/Internet, E-mail | Jeff Breitner/Bill Mullen | Rockwood, MI |
| GDP Technologies | (303)673-9470 | Outstanding IBM Shareware on a small system | Tom Getty's | Lafayette, CO |
| General, The | (619)281-8616 | Popular File Library - GIF Images | Marc Teitler | San Diego, CA |
| GISnet BBS | (303)447-0927 | Graphics Information Systems/Mapping topics | Bill Thoen | Boulder, CO |
| GLIB | (703)578-4542 | Gay and Lesbian Information Bureau - 11 Lines - 9600 bps | Community Educational Svcs. Foundation | Arlington, VA |
| GPO WINDO Online Service | (202)512-1387 | Fed Information from EPA, DOE, State Department - others. | US Government Printing Office | Washington, DC |
| Greenpeace Environet | (415)512-9108 | Ecological and Peace Issues - Disarmament/Toxics/Wildlife | Dick Dillman/Greenpeace | San Francisco, CA |
| Hackers R Us Online | (602)945-8416 | Online Games, Files & Tech Discussions | David Ray | Scottsdale, AZ |
| Hackers World BBS | (309)672-4405 | Adult Files, Fidonet Echo-Mail Adult-net | Martin Belcke | Peoria, IL |
| Harris City Medical BBS | (713)790-1093 | Medical Information | Monica Faulk | Houston, TX |
| Hayes Advanced Systems Support | (800)874-2937 | Customer Support Line for Hayes Customers. V-series/Ultra | Hayes Microcomputer Products | Norcross, GA |
| Heartland Free-net | (309)674-1100 | Community Online Service - Free Internet E-Mail Boxes | Peoria County Board/Bradley University | Peoria, IL |
| Herpnet/Satronics TBBS | (215)698-1905 | Reptile and Amphibian Studies - Poison Snakes/Toads/Fish | Mark Miller | Philadelphia, PA |
| HH Info-Net BBS | (203)246-3747 | MS Windows and OS/2 Files our specialty | Lee Winsor | New Hartford, CT |
| HoloNet | (510)704-1058 | National Access, INTERNET, USENET, CHAT, GIFS, FILES | Information Access Technologies, Inc. | Berkeley, CA |
| HouseNet BBS | (410)745-2037 | Home Fixup/Repair/Renovation Tips, Advice, and Articles | Gene and Katie Hamilton | St. Michaels, MD |
| Howard's Notebook 1:280/25 | (816)331-5868 | Environmental, Peace, Justice since 1982 - 4 nodes | Jim Howard | Kansas City, MO |
| Hysterics | (613)231-7144 | Amiga File Distribution Network 1:163/109 | Russell McOrmond | Ottawa, Ontario, |
| IBM National Support Center BBS | (404)835-5300 | IBM PC User Groups Database - Newsletter Exchange | IBM National Support Center | Atlanta, GA |
| Inbound/Outbound/Teleconnect | (212)989-4675 | Telephone Sales Trade Magazine Online Service | Harry Newton Publications | New York, NY |
| Infinite Space Online | (407)856-0021 | 32 Line Interactive Chat & Games Majornet | Charlie Scherker | Orlando, FL |
| InfoHost Demo BBS | (201)335-2253 | Demo BBS for InfoHost BBS Software - Multiline - Database | A-Comm Electronics Inc. | Hasbrouch Heights, NJ |
| Inns of Court, The | (214)458-2620 | LAN Related Files and Utilities 1:124/6101 | Arthur Geffen | Dallas, TX |
| Intel PCEO Support BBS | (503)645-6275 | Support for Intel PC Products - Inboard 386/AboveBoard 286 | Intel Corporation PCEO Division | Hillsborough, OR |
| Inter Comm | (702)359-2666 | 6 Line 5.5 Gig 30,000 Files | Roger Brown | Spark, NV |
| InterMail Tech Support BBS | (305)436-1884 | Home of InterMail, Front End Mailer for FidoNet 1:369/102 | Patrik Bertilsson | Hollywood, FL |
| Invention Factory | (212)274-8110 | 46 Lines - 100 Directories - Full Usenet Feed - 8.2 GB | Mike Sussell | New York, NY |
| Investor's Online Data | (206)285-5359 | Online Investment/Stock Market Information/Tech Analysis | Don Shepherdson | Bellevue, WA |
| JDR Microdevices BBS | (408)494-1430 | Online Hardware Order - Catalog - 1.1 GB Files - Quizzes | JDR Microdevices | San Jose, CA |
| JOBBS | (404)992-8937 | Online Job Listings - 2186 Technical Pos. - 10,000 Corps. | Alpha Systems Inc./Bill Griffin | Roswell, GA |
| Keith Graham Shareware Support | (914)623-0039 | OPTIK, TEXT2COM, CBOOT, very good shareware utilities | Keith P. Graham | Nyack, NY |
| KIMBERELY BBS | (612)340-2489 | Prime Rate-Fed Funds-T-Bill-Discount Rate-Economic Data | Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis | Minneapolis, MN |
| King's Market BBS 104/115 | (303)665-6091 | 400 MB Books, Writers Area - TRS 80 Support | Jim and Karen Burt | Boulder, CO |
| Knight Vision BBS | (213)344-3600 | Chess and Backgammon - 8 lines - "Intelligent Entertainment" | Matthew Beelby | Pasadena, CA |
| Lace's Place | (718)822-3552 | Female Domination Adult BBS online since 7/91 | Ellen Grogan | New York City, NY |
| LANtastic BBS | (602)293-8065 | Support for LANtastic local area network | Artisoft Inc. | Tucson, AZ |
| Late Night Software 125/555 | (415)695-0759 | Home of UFGATE - Software to connect PCs to UUCP/Usenet | Tim Pozar | San Francisco, CA |
| LegalEase | (509)326-3238 | Legal issues/Forms - Law BBS List | Bill Sorcinelli | Spokane, WA |
| LICA Limbs BBS | (516)561-6590 | Member written software PC Board 15.0 USR HST Since 1980 | Dave Minott | Valley Stream, NY |

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|----------------------------------|---------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Lincoln Cabin BBS | (415)752-4490 | General Interests & Rime | Steve Pomerantz | San Francisco, CA |
| MAC-LINK | (514)486-8959 | Macintosh Oriented Support BBS - 6 Lines - Infomat/BIX | Mark Smith | Montreal, QUEBEC |
| Macalot Bulletin Board | (412)846-5312 | Support for Second Sight BBS Software for Macintosh | Jeff Dripps/FreeSoft Company | Beaver Falls, PA |
| MacCircles | (303)526-2219 | Mac System Software distributor, mail, sigs, files | Patricia O'Connor | Golden, CO |
| MacInternational | (803)798-3755 | Macintosh support since April '85. FirstClass BBS | Ralph Yount | Columbia, SC |
| Magpie BBS | (212)420-0527 | Support/Demo System for Magpie BBS/Conferencing Software | Steve Manes | New York, NY |
| MaxiHost Support BBS | (209)836-2402 | MaxiHost BBS - small, very easy to run BBS | Don Mankin | San Ramon, CA |
| Mayan Antiquities | (214)691-1316 | Mayan Culture and Antiquities | Ron Whipple | Dallas, TX |
| McAfee Associates BBS | (408)988-4004 | Computer Virus Information - VIRUSCAN and CLEANUP | John McAfee/CVIA | Santa Clara, CA |
| Med Technet | (716)688-1552 | Educational research for Clinical Laboratory professionals | Bill Hliwa | East Amherst, NY |
| Medi-Call BBS | (818)330-1739 | Active 2 lines PubSvc w/ 120 netmail confs., & GIGs of Files | Gordon Huyck | La Puenet, CA |
| Meeting Works, The | (212)737-6932 | Meeting/seminar/convention planning information. | John Mackenzie | New York, NY |
| METRO Online Entertainment | (212)831-9280 | 32 line DLX with City Guide/Ski Database - Matchmaker - Chat | Bruce Kamm/Metro Online Services | New York City, NY |
| Micro Foundry, The | (415)598-0398 | 2.2 GB Downloads - Your Online Software Source - Boardwatch | Thomas Nelson/Clockwork Software | San Jose, CA |
| Micro Message Service | (919)779-6674 | USA Today/Boxoffice Magazine - Large Download Area | Mike Stroud | Raleigh, NC |
| Microrim Technical Support BBS | (206)649-9836 | Support for Popular R:Base Relational Data Base System | Microrim Corporation | Redmond, WA |
| Microsoft Download BBS | (206)936-6735 | Windows Technical Notes and Support Information | Microsoft Corp/Scott J. Honaker | Bellevue, WA |
| Microsystems Software Inc. | (508)875-8009 | HandiWare Software for Handicapped - CodeRunner C Utilities | MSI - Reed Lewis | Framingham, MA |
| MindVox | (212)989-4141 | Internet Access, E-Mail, Newsgroups, ftp/telnet | Phantom Access Technologies | New York, NY |
| Minnesota Space Frontier | (612)459-0892 | Minnesota Space Frontier Society - NASA News | Ben Husset | Minneapolis, MN |
| MOG-UR'S EMS, The | (818)366-1238 | 5 Lines - 8 Networks CD-ROMS - 2.8 GB Hub Services HST/V.32 | Tom Tcimpidis | Granada Hills, CA |
| Monterey Gaming System | (408)655-5555 | A Custom Multi-user BBS with Conferencing and Custom Games | David Janakes | Monterey, CA |
| Mountain Air BBS | (703)427-0226 | Adult Based BBS | Edward Lee Wood, Jr. | Roanoke, VA |
| Movie BBS | (718)939-5462 | Movie Reviews and Information - Television | Clarke Ulmer | New York, NY |
| Mustang Software | (805)873-2400 | Support for Mustang Software Products | MSI Sysop | Bakersfield, CA |
| N.A.C.D. BBS | (912)246-3280 | Cave Scuba Diving - Superb Special Topic System | National Assoc. of Cave Divers | Gainesville, FL |
| N8EMR Ham BBS | (614)895-2553 | login:hbbs HAM Radio/AMSAT Unix System - Satellite/Packet | Gary Sanders | Westerville, OH |
| Namu BBS | (913)273-1550 | Amateur Radio Interests | Rob Nall | Topeka, KS |
| NAPLPS Graphics BBS | (613)727-5272 | NAPLPS Graphics Terminal and Editor Software | MicroStar Corp. | Nepean, ONTARIO |
| NASA Spacelink | (205)895-0028 | NASA Educational Affairs Div. - Flight Data/Space History | Marshall Space Flight Center | Huntsville, AL |
| Nashville Exchange | (615)383-0727 | 12 line TBBS - Games/TDBS Software Development 1.8 GB | Ben Cunningham | Nashville, TN |
| National Genealogical BBS | (703)528-2612 | Family History - Genealogical Research - Gravestone Haunting | National Genealogical Society | Arlington, VA |
| Netcom Internet Guest System | (408)241-9760 | Internet Access System - type "guest" at login for info. | Netcom Online Communications Services | San Jose, CA |
| Network World Bulletin Board | (508)620-1178 | LAN and WAN Issues and Technology | Network World Magazine | Framingham, MA |
| Newbed | (506)453-2147 | Educational System K12 Net | William Brydges | Fredericton, NB |
| Newtown Express BBS | (215)943-6806 | 14.5 Gigs/700+Sigs 18 Lines Large Adult Section USA Today | Anthony Maglietta | Newton, PA |
| Night Shift, The | (818)955-5155 | 16 lines/chat/Usenet Newsgroups/Internet Mail/USATODAY | Charles Hilt | Burbank, CA |
| NIST ACTS | (303)494-4775 | Automated Computer Telephone Service - Sync PC to NBS Time | Nat. Institute for Standards/Technology | Boulder, CO |
| NOAA Space Environment Lab | (303)497-5042 | Solar Flare/Geomagnetic Data Online | National Oceanographic/Atmospheric Admin | Boulder, CO |
| NoGate Consulting | (616)530-3392 | Home of PAK archive utility | Mike Neuhaus Gus Smedstad | Grand Rapids, MI |
| North Castle BBS | (507)281-8292 | Minnesotas #1 RPG BBS | Rob Richter | Rochester, MN |
| O&E Online | (313)591-0903 | Free Community BBS, Editorial Text from Newspapers | Greg Day | Livonia, MI |
| OAQPSTTN | (919)541-5742 | Air Quality Planning and Standards Technology Transfer Net | Environmental Protection Agency | Research Triangle Park, NC |
| OASIS BBS | (404)627-2662 | Home of Atlanta Bulletin Board List - ABBL | Robert Orr/Online Atlanta Society | Decatur, GA |
| Occupational Health/Safety BBS | (212)385-2034 | Job Safety Issues for Artists, Musicians, Entertainers | Mike McCann/Center for Safety in Arts | New York, NY |
| ODYSSEY | (818)358-6968 | Largest Adult Based Entertainment Service In North America | Michael Allen | Monrovia, CA |
| Odyssey | (818)358-6968 | Adult Multiline Chat System - Games - Magazines - Downloads | Michael Allen | Monrovia, CA |
| OERI BBS | (800)222-4922 | Educational Statistics and Data - Performance Stats - | US Department of Education | Washington, D.C. |
| Old Colorado City Communications | (719)632-4111 | Political Discussions - Unix UUCP Public Access - Multiline | Dave Hughes | Colorado Springs, CO |
| Online Now | (807)345-5522 | Canada's shareware house is online now | Gary Walsh/Tom Haavisto | Thunder Bay, ONTARIO |
| Online With Hayes | (404)446-6336 | Hayes Public Bulletin Board - Conferences/SIGS/Support | Hayes Microcomputer Products | Norcross, GA |
| Oracle PC | 6108 260-6222 | South Australian TBBS Multiline System | Don Crago | Pooraka South Australia, |
| Oracomm Support BBS | (612)894-5879 | Sales and Support for Oracomm Multiline BBS Software | Surf Computer Services | Minneapolis, MN |
| Osprey's Nest | (301)989-9036 | Birdwatching, Bird feeding, Naturalist/Ecology Issues | Fran and Norm Saunders | Colesville, MD |
| Ozone Hole, The | (504)891-3142 | Boardwatch-USA Today-Internet-Usenet-RIME | Mike Mathews | New Orleans, LA |
| P.D.S.L.O. BBS | (516)938-6722 | Home of THE LIST National BBS List | James Toro | Hicksville, NY |

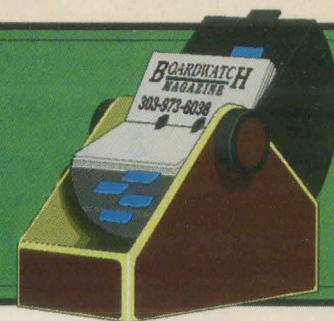
BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES - October 1994

| SERVICE | PHONE | DESCRIPTION | SPONSOR/SYSOP | LOCATION |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| PacComm BBS | (813)874-3078 | Packet Radio Equipment Supplier - TNC/PSK Modems | Gwyn Reedy/PacCom Inc. | Tampa, FL |
| PC Junction BBS | (615)478-2890 | Smartnet Throbnnet 100,000 Files & Online Magazines | Douglas Carpenter | Cleveland, TN |
| PC-Ohio | (216)381-3320 | Shareware library with 100% USR HST access - 50 lines | Norm Henke | Cleveland, OH |
| Pennywise | (800)752-3012 | Online Office Supply Sales Service | Pennywise | Edmonston, MD |
| PHYSICS Forum BBS | (413)545-1959 | Physics and Astronomical Sciences | Univ. of Mass. Dept. of Physics/Astronomy | Amherst, MA |
| Pinecliffe BBS 104/28 | (303)642-7463 | Large Shareware Library/Echomail Conferences since 1985 | Craig Baker | Pinecliffe, CO |
| Pinnacle Software BBS | (514)345-8654 | Support for Sapphire BBS Software | Timothy Campbell/Pinnacle Software | Montreal, QUEBEC |
| Pipeline, The | (209)592-9861 | Construction topics for contractors, suppliers, public works | Michael W. Adams | Fresno, CA |
| PKWare BBS | (414)354-8670 | Home of PKZIP 1.10 Compression Utility | Phil Katz/PKWare Incorporated | Glendale, WI |
| Pleasure Dome | (804)490-5878 | Sexually Explicit Fantasy Chat System - Adults only | Tom Terrific | Tidewater, VA |
| Practical Peripherals BBS | (805)496-4445 | Support BBS for Practical Peripherals Modems | Practical Peripherals | West Lake Village, CA |
| ProComm Support BBS | (314)875-0503 | Home of ProComm 2.4.3 and ProComm Plus Comm Prgrms | Thomas Smith/DataStorm Technologies Inc. | Columbia, MO |
| Promised Land, The | (715)387-1339 | 16-Line/2.5GB/11,000+ Files/ WINDOWS, Chat & More | Tim Brown/Computer Solutions | Marshfield, WI |
| Public Brand Software BBS | (317)856-2087 | Commercial Shareware Vendor | Public Brand Software | Indianapolis, IN |
| Public Connection | (817)738-7336 | Public Files | Joe Coles | Ft Worth, TX |
| QMail Deluxe Support BBS | (615)230-8822 | Support for QMail Deluxe and 1stReader offline mail utils | Mark (Sparky) Herring | Germantown, TN |
| Qualitas, Inc. BBS | (301)907-8030 | 386MAX and BlueMAX Memory Management Software Support | Qualitas Inc. | Bethesda, MD |
| Quarterdeck BBS | (310)314-3227 | Technical Support for QEMM, DESQview, all Quarterdeck Prods | Quarterdeck Office Systems | Santa Monica, CA |
| QuickBBS Support BBS 363/34 | (407)896-0494 | Product Support for QuickBBS Software | Richard Creighton/Steve Gabrilowitz | Orlando, FL |
| Random Access Information Svc. | (503)695-3250 | 11,000 GIF Images - 20,000 DOS/Windows Shareware Files | Janice Stevens | Corbett, OR |
| RoboBOARD/FX | (819)682-7771 | RoboBOARD Support 8 Lines | Hamilton TeleGraphics Inc. | Aylmer, PQ |
| Ronin BBS | (214)938-2840 | Traditional File and Message BBS | Chuck Mattern | Red Oak, TX |
| Rose Media | (416)733-2780 | 19 GB - Home of Rosemail - Publications/Conferences | Vic Kass | Willowdale, ONTARIO |
| Rusty & Edies | (216)726-0737 | Large ML PCBoard run by Husband and Wife - NFL/Tradewars | Rusty and Edwina Hardenburgh | Boardman, OH |
| Sahara Club BBS | (818)893-1899 | Land-Use issues, Off-Road, Timber, Conservation | Patrick Martin/Sahara Club | North Hills, CA |
| Salt Air BBS | (801)261-8976 | Home of PCBoard BBS Software - National List of PCB Sys | Clark Development Company/David Terry | Murray, UT |
| San Diego NeXT User's Group BBS | (619)456-2522 | Support for NeXT Computers | Brian Dear/San Diego NeXT User's Group | San Diego, CA |
| SBA Online | (800)697-4636 | Advice for Small Business Owners on Financing/Management | Small Business Administration | Washington, DC |
| Science Resource Studies BBS | (202)634-1764 | Federal R&D Budget - Technical Labor Market Statistics | National Science Foundation | Washington, D.C. |
| SDN Project, The 1:141/840 | (203)634-0370 | The Original Software Distribution Network | Ray Kaliss | Meriden, CT |
| SEABOARD! | (804)442-6047 | Support system for ARC, SEADOG, and AXE software. | System Enhancement Associates | Nassawadox, VA |
| Seagate Technical Support BBS | (408)438-8771 | Installation and Specifications for Hard Drive Models | Seagate/Bill Rudok | Scotts Valley, CA |
| Searchlight BBS | (216)631-9285 | Support system for Searchlight BBS Software | Searchlight Software | Cleveland, OH |
| SemWare Support BBS | (404)641-8968 | Home of QEdit - A Superb Shareware Text Editor | Sammy Mitchell/SemWare Software Products | Marietta, GA |
| SENDIT | (701)237-3283 | North Dakota K-12 Educational Net-telnet sendit.nodak.edu | Gleason Sackman/NDU | Fargo, ND |
| SIGCAT BBS | (703)648-4168 | CD-ROM /Optical Publishing Info - Lists of Gov. CD Data | SIG on CD-ROM Applications and Technol. | Gathersburg, MD |
| Sistema Profesional Informacion | (525)590-5988 | Largest BBS in Mexico - Spanish Language TBBS | Tecnologia Uno Cero S.A. de C.V. | Mexico City, |
| Skeleton Closet, The | (804)671-8547 | Genealogy Programs File Distribution Net 1:271/23 | Debbi McKay | Virginia Beach, VA |
| Society for Technical Comm. BBS | (703)522-3299 | STC Job Service, Freelance Registry - Technical Writers | Society for Technical Communication | Washington, D.C. |
| Software Creations BBS | (508)368-4137 | Home of Apogee Software/Commander Keen Series | Dan Linton | Clinton, MA |
| Sound Advice BBS | (816)436-4516 | Twenty Line PCBoard with 2 Gigabytes Storage - HST Modems | Roy Timberman | Gladstone, MO |
| Source for Source, The | (516)968-7824 | Source code - large LINUX file collection | Erik VanRiper | Bay Shore, NY |
| Space BBS | (415)323-4193 | Multi Node BBS for Engineers | Owen Hawkins | Menlo Park, CA |
| Spark*Net | (718)447-5544 | Internet E-Mail, Worldlink, Chat, Games, Forums, Files | John Spark | New York City, NY |
| Spectrum Online Systems | (719)576-6853 | Graphics Based Service, Full Internet Access | Chris Phillips | Colorado Springs, CO |
| Star Tech BBS | (714)257-1175 | LA/Orange local access Fidonet hub, file echos, and internet | David Unfried | Orange County, CA |
| Star-Link Network BBS | (718)972-6099 | 9-nodes, 2.1GB, Ilink, 75,000 programs | Michael Keylin | Brooklyn, NY |
| Starlink BBS | (915)235-4818 | Technical Support for Predictive Maint Customers | John Land | Sweetwater, TX |
| StarLink Information Services | (502)964-7827 | Online Travel Service, Internet Movie Reviews & Weather | Scott Goldbach | Louisville, KY |

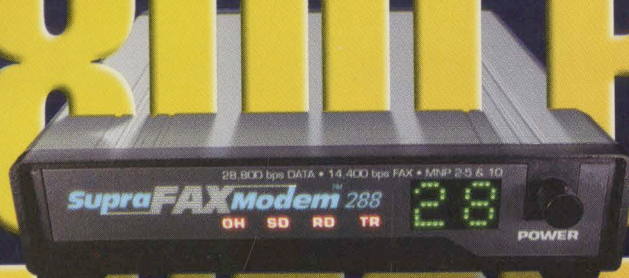
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|----------------------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| State and Local Emergency Mgmt. | (202)646-2887 | Hazardous Materials/National Dam Watch/Emergency Info | Federal Emergency Management Agency | Washington, D.C. |
| Streame | (718)349-8137 | Connecton to the World of New York Book Publishing | BookStreame | Brooklyn, NY |
| STSC BBS | (801)774-6509 | Software Engineering, Government & Software Organizations | George A. Klipper | Hill AFB, UT |
| Sun Valley Net | (208)726-1435 | Information & Files on environment & outdoors | Stephen Schowengert | Ketchum, ID |
| Superdemocracy Foundation BBS | (305)370-9376 | Online Democracy/Political Culture for the Future | Tim Stryker | Davie, FL |
| T-80 BBS | (403)246-4487 | 3.6 Gigs, 4 CD Roms 7,000 GIFS 20,000 Shareware Programs | Brian Simpson | Calgary, AB |
| TAXACOM | (716)896-7581 | Botany, Herbaria, FLORA ONLINE Newsletter, Latin Translation | Clinton Herbarium, Buffalo Museum | Buffalo, NY |
| TEAMate Unix Bulletin Board | (310)318-5302 | Demo/Support for TEAMate BBS Software for Unix | Bob Baskerville/MMB Development Corp. | Manhattan Beach, CA |
| Telebit Support BBS | (408)745-3229 | Support for Telebit Modems | Telebit Corp. | Sunnyvale, CA |
| Telegodzilla | (503)621-3746 | Home of ZModem File Transfer Protocol/YModem/YAM | Chuck Forsberg/Omen Technology Incorp. | Portland, OR |
| Telepath | (415)358-8641 | DBMS/Dr. Dobbs Journal Magazine Online Service | M&T Publishing | Redwood City, CA |
| Telix Support BBS | (919)481-9399 | Support Service for Telix Communications Software | Jeff Woods/deltaComm Development | Cary, NC |
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| The Business BBS | (619)576-0049 | Business Related Files & Info | Doug Rowan | San Diego, CA |
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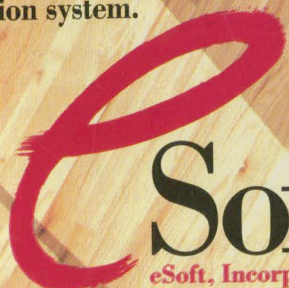
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THE FUTURE OF COMPUTING

By Dvorak

It was a Disney executive who was telling a Nightly Business News interviewer that TV won't be the same five years from now...it will have some sort of computer in it. "It will have a navigator and when you turn it on it will say hi and ask you what you want to do that day."



You know, "Hi Jack, what do you want to watch today?"

"Uh, I didn't think about it. What's on tonight?"

"Puh-leeze. There are 500 channels and since it's now 9 AM it would take me all day to recite today's shows. Can't you be more specific?"

"We, sheesh. You asked! How about a comedy. Murphy Brown?"

"Murphy Brown is on Monday. Get with the program, dweeb."

"Well, is there anything I normally watch tonight?"

"Not really."

Yeah, this is going to work wonders.

I've been giving some of these futuristic promises some thought and have decided that while there may be a computer in the TV in five years, it won't do much more than change channels, control surround sound and maybe adjust the color in some cool way. As for the rest, forget it.

But that isn't stopping anyone from investing in the odd promises. A fool and his money are soon parted.

Let me tell you a story about Steve Wozniak — the inventor of the Apple II and an inveterate technology booster. After quitting Apple he started a company called Cloud Nine where he tried to market a be-all, end-all TV remote control device that could do just about anything. It was so hard to use that it was basically useless. It died on the retailers shelves. It was an idea that appealed to a rather small number of people. We always have to remember that not everyone likes gizmos.

Wozniak once asked an audience "Wouldn't it be cool if when you were travelling and remembered that you forgot to set your VCR to record a program if you could call your house and program the VCR over the phone." I was sitting in the audience and the fellow sitting next to me mumbled, "I think you're watching too much TV."

Only Woz and a very very few other high tech junkies would actually wire their house with all sorts of gizmoid devices and complicate their lives with this stuff. Most people who have the capability (such as the readers of Boardwatch) don't actually go through the trouble of doing this — **EVEN THOUGH THEY CAN.** So what about the general public. Once they are introduced to all this wizardry will they actually implement all this futuristic crap? I seriously doubt it. How many people go through the trouble of reading the VCR manual so they can set the clock on the VCR? Only a few people can program the thing. It was a humiliation to the American people when VCR Plus was introduced. Before that Panasonic even tried some bar-code thingamajig for dummies to try. So, based on this, are we supposed to see some sort of convergence of technologies? In the next five years? Who are these boneheads kidding? The home of the future will not be much different than it is today.

VIDEO ON DEMAND

Well, some ask, what about all the video on demand stuff. **AT LEAST** that will be implemented. Maybe, to a degree it will. But not using multi-million dollar video servers as some have proposed. If you go to a cable show you see the way most video on demand systems work. There is a bank of laser disk players and some poor schlub has to hand load each one as the requests for movies come in. This only works on addressable cable systems, by the way. The problems are obvious. Everyone wants to watch the latest film and Aunt Phyllis, who goes to bed early, already has it started. The cable company, which has no experience in this sort of customer service thing, never has enough copies of anything so nobody but a few people get to see the new film. I hope you all like old movies if you think this is a good idea.

I suppose I could go on and on with this rant, but let me just say that a lot of people are going to waste a lot of money trying to exploit a market that isn't there. I'm reminded of the hoopla that preceded the ridiculous interest in pen-based computing. Anytime you see the phone companies jump on these bandwagons early, you know there is a problem.

ONE BBSCON

I may as well put in my two cents worth about the recent **ONE BBSCON**, the premier BBS conference. I think this year's show made it clear that not only has the BBS scene come of age and matured before our eyes, but has stabilized into a pretty decent business for a lot of people. When I go around a show like this I think of the people who are looking for a decent business to get involved with and mistakenly attend the **NEW AGE 94 CON** or the **YOU CAN BE RICH CON** or the **OPPORTUNITIES CON** or some other **CON**. The poor saps are shown how they too can make money selling crystals on the Santa Cruz Boardwalk to rubes and suckers. Meanwhile a good BBS serves the public and can be a profitable enterprise. These people need to come to **ONE BBSCON**.

The big trend this year seemed to be Internet connectivity. The Internet is something we have to reckon with even though it's hyped to death. I was

amused how John Quartermain, the author of the Matrix, and an astute Internet observer says there are probably only about 2 million REAL users on the Net. Jack Rickard has always believed that the inflated usage numbers on the Net were because of bogus users; such as counting every single CompuServe user as an Internet user although few ever use the gateway. Be that as it may, the Internet is still a force to be reckoned with. So where does the BBS community fit in?

Some believe that besides being a gateway to the Internet for mail and maybe newsgroups, BBSs will themselves become newsgroup-like. A Net user in Cambodia can subscribe to the BBS through the Net and access it via a SLIP connection or whatever. The BBS fees would still apply. This means to be a success on the Internet, the BBS would have to have a special purpose. I think the great BBSs of the future will all be of two categories:

- 1) community services,
- 2) highly specialized.

The first — community service — means that it will be a BBS for the town of Aspen. As I write this column I'm in Waikiki (tough life). I would love to be able to access a local BBS that tells me exactly where is this weekends Arts and Crafts Fair that I know is taking place. This type of BBS would be underwritten by the city.

The second would be the BBS for stamp collectors or medical specialists or whatever (even specializing in elaborate chat scenes such as the Garbage Dump BBS). This is where the user pays to join as if it were a club or magazine subscription. The specialty can be as simple as the Exec PC and its desire to archive every known file. I don't know if Mahoney has done this yet, but I suspect the Exec PC will eventually be linked into the World Wide Web as a subscription service and Internet users will enter the Exec PC via their Internet link.

All this means to the BBS operator is a little more work, familiarization with WWW and the ability to link into the Net directly. It's really just another access route and nothing more than that. I've always thought of the Internet as an alternative long distance phone system with no real-time voice capability, although I'm sure there are some voice hacks out there too. It will be at ONE BBSCON where this future is made most clear. Too bad many of the newcomer goofball "net

surfers" out there who promote the Net haven't got a clue about anything other than the Net itself.

THE BRICK WALL

I suppose I should mention one other aspect of telecomputing that I noticed at ONE BBSCON, and I suppose I noticed it elsewhere too. It's that at 28.8 kbps we probably are as close to the brick wall as we're going to get. While I've heard that there may be a mini-jump to 30 kbps and that 40 kbps might be possible under perfect conditions, it seems that 28.8 kbps is going to be our raw speed limit for a good while. Hopefully before 40 kbps is reached (if ever) we'll be using ISDN and beyond. The

ISDN thing is still annoying since it should be 100% implemented today but some systems such as US WEST are more interested in cable TV or other ventures than in improving the all-important infrastructure of the nation. The sad thing about phonecos such as US WEST is that they care so little about phone service that in areas they serve not only is ISDN not available (anytime soon), but the phone lines themselves are horrible and probably not up to 28.8 kbps capability. I hear this same complaint about phone service in the rural South. I can't emphasize enough the need to complain about phone service and the infrastructure in this country.



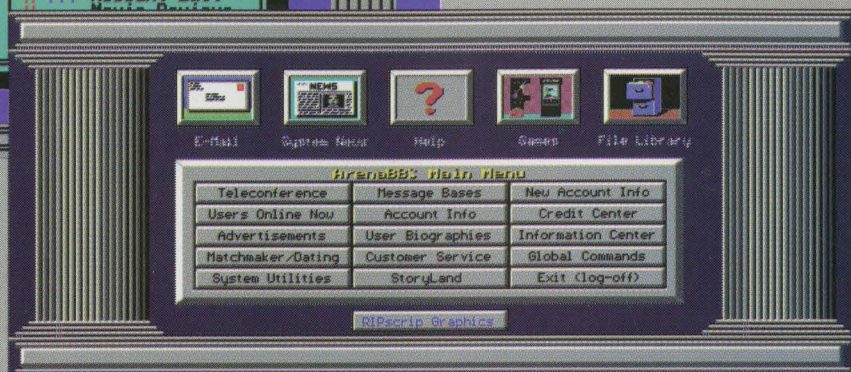
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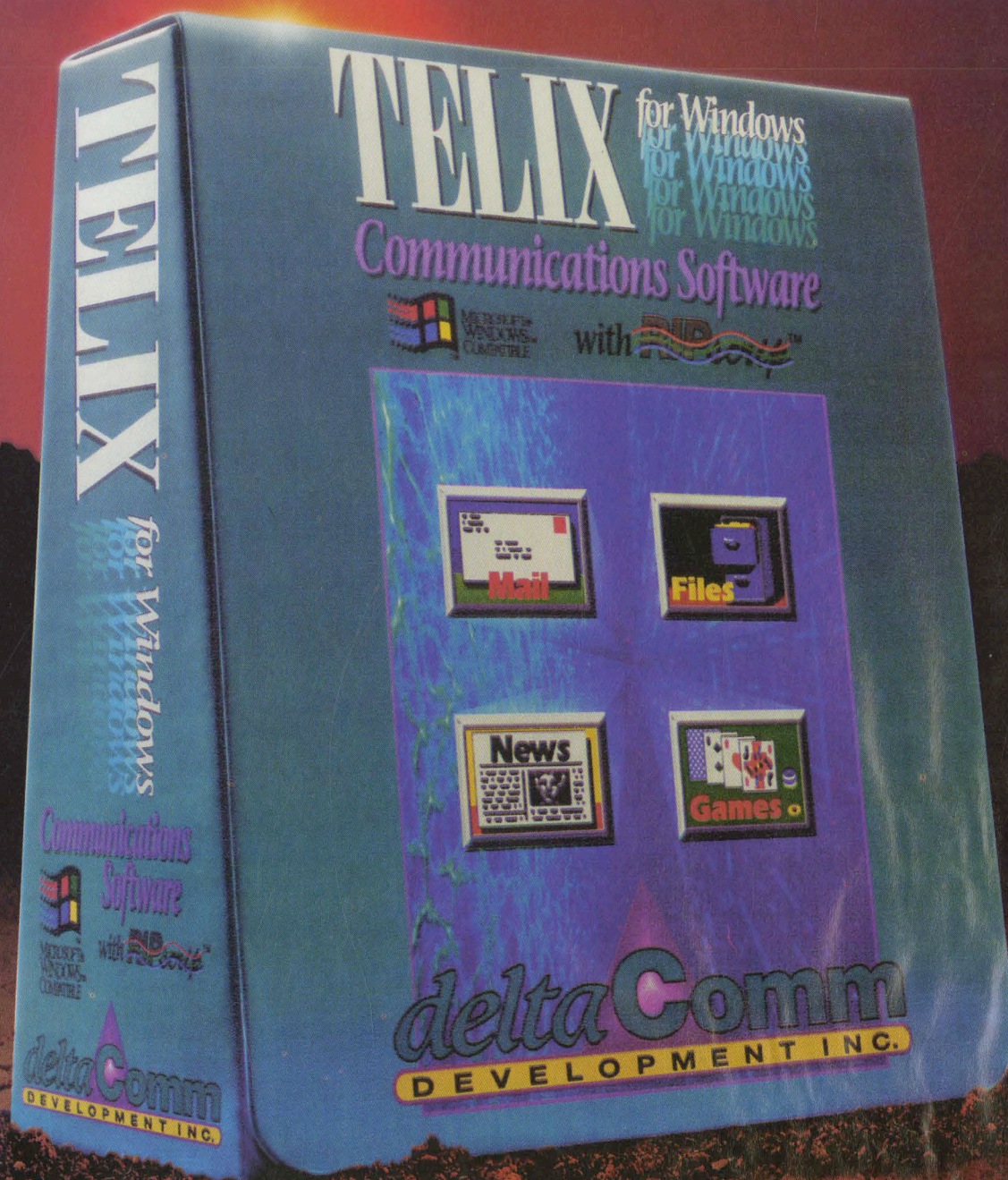
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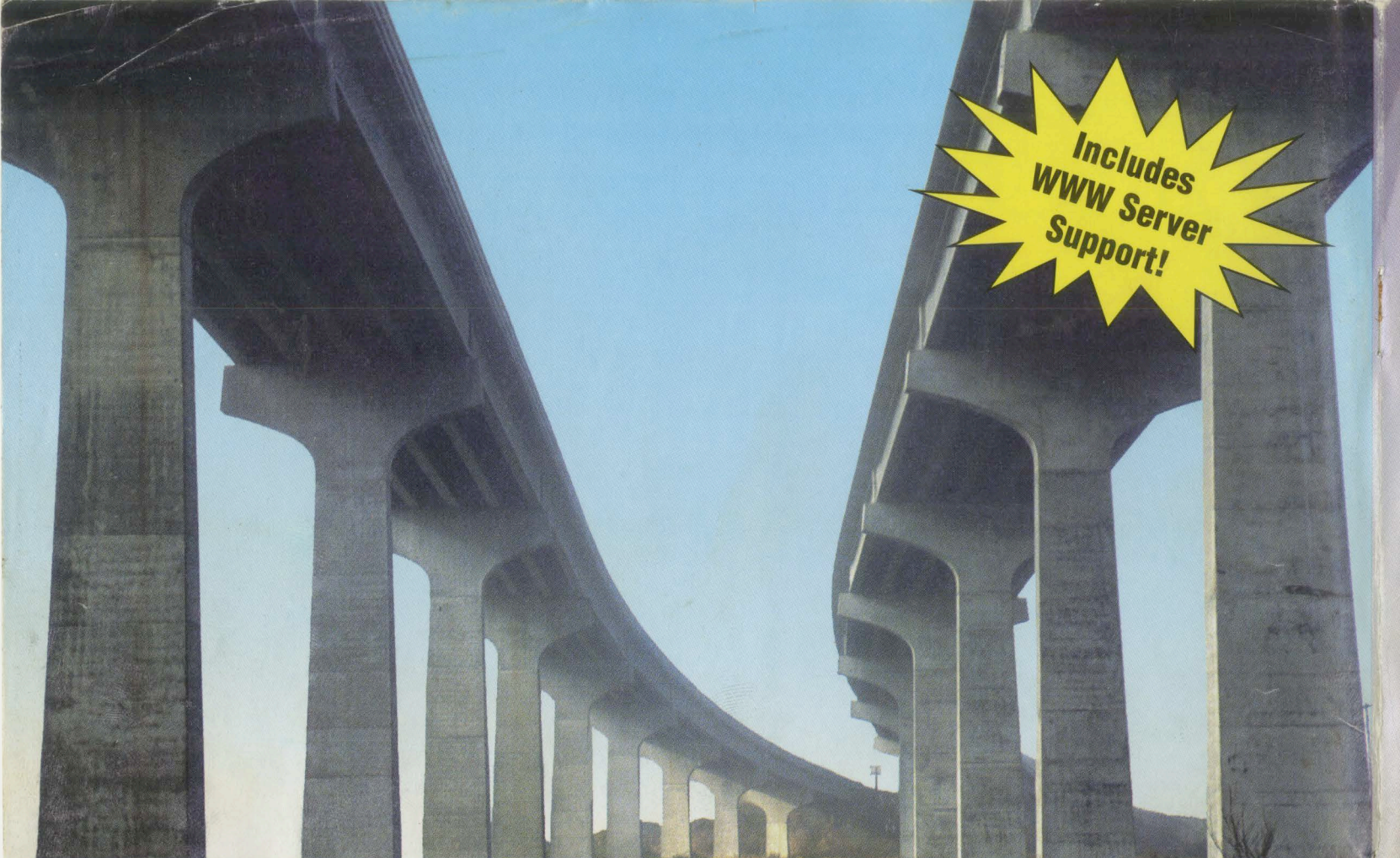


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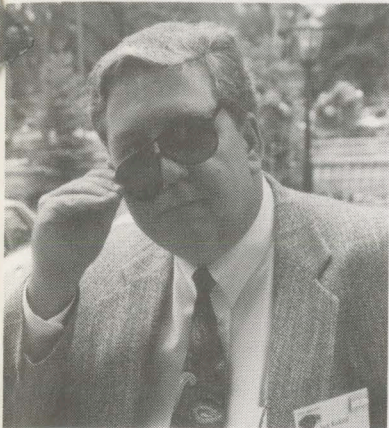
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John C. Dvorak, PC Magazine, Oct 31, 1989

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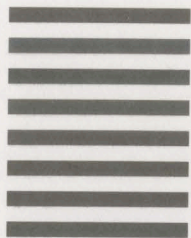
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